

INSIDE TODAY

Casey will not testify

KYLE HIGHTOWER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Casey Anthony's defense team rested its case Thursday in her high-profile murder trial without her testimony and some experts believe the strategy raised more questions than answers to support her claim that her 2-year daughter died in a tragic accident.



Casey Anthony tells Judge Belvin Perry she won't testify in her own defense and her defense attorney Jose Baez says it has rested its case during her trial at the Orange County Courthouse in Orlando, Fla. on Thursday, June 30, 2011. Anthony, 25, answered Perry's questions briefly about her decision.

(AP Photo/Red Huber, Pool)

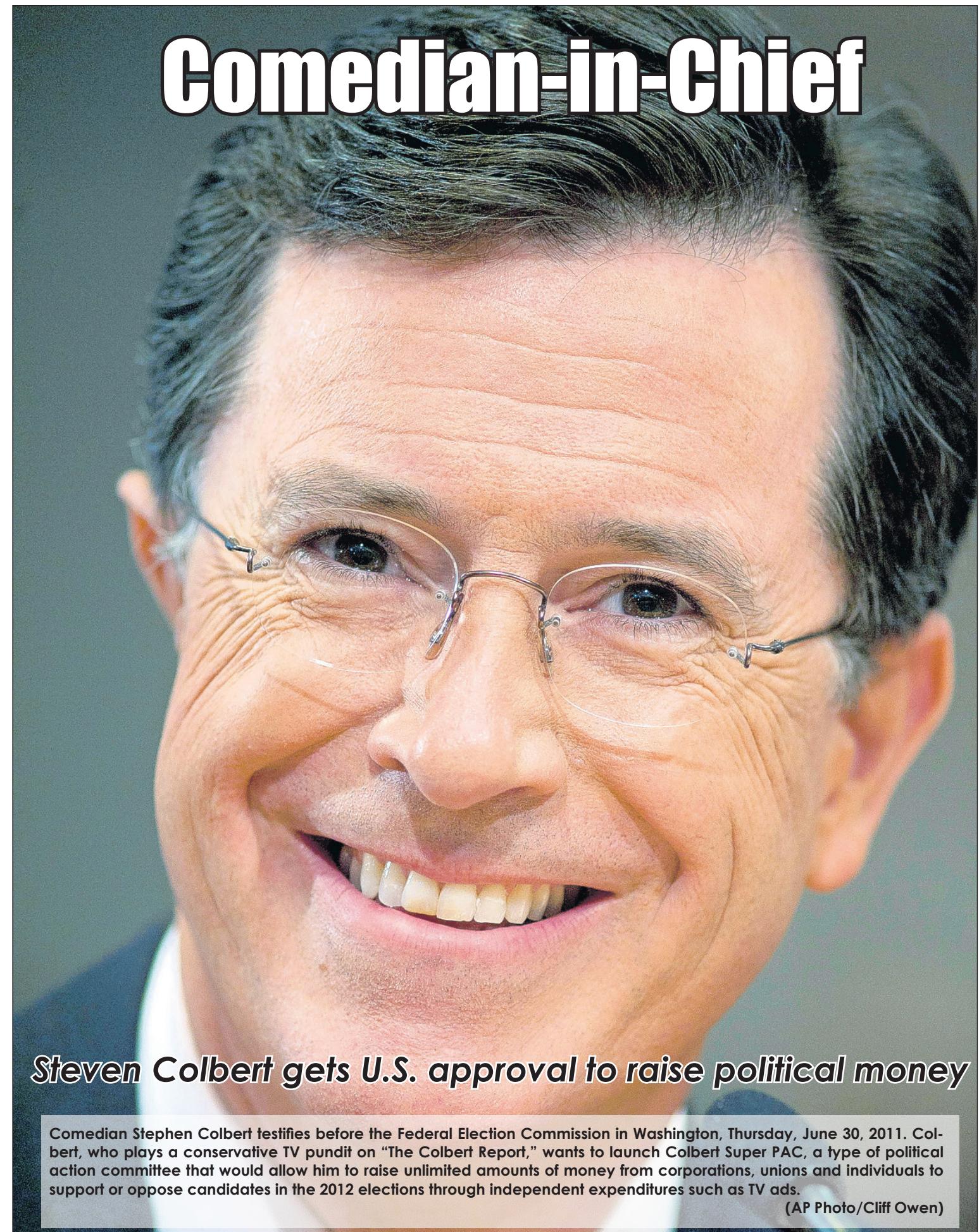
The jury also saw a note from a failed suicide attempt by Casey Anthony's own father, who wrestled with questions about what happened to his granddaughter. Casey Anthony claimed he helped her dispose of Caylee's body after she drowned.

At different parts of the note, George Anthony wrote: "Casey does not deserve to be where she is" and "She (Caylee) was found so close to home. Why?"

The prosecution began its rebuttal on Thursday afternoon. Closing arguments will follow and the jury could begin deliberating by this weekend.

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Comedian-in-Chief



Steven Colbert gets U.S. approval to raise political money

Comedian Stephen Colbert testifies before the Federal Election Commission in Washington, Thursday, June 30, 2011. Colbert, who plays a conservative TV pundit on "The Colbert Report," wants to launch Colbert Super PAC, a type of political action committee that would allow him to raise unlimited amounts of money from corporations, unions and individuals to support or oppose candidates in the 2012 elections through independent expenditures such as TV ads.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

ANDREW MIGA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Election Commission said Thursday that comedian Stephen Colbert can use his TV show's resources for political fundraising. Colbert, who plays a conservative TV pundit on "The Col-

bert Report," played it straight during his appearance before the commission, letting his attorney do most of the talking while saving his trademark quips for a crowd that gathered outside the commission building after the meeting. "I don't accept the status quo," he told the crowd, brandish-

ing a portable credit card processing machine. "I do accept Visa, MasterCard or American Express." Many in the crowd handed Colbert their credit cards or dollar bills as contributions.

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Casey Anthony doesn't take the stand as defense rests

Continued from Page 1

If convicted of first-degree murder, the 25-year-old could receive the death penalty.

Her attorneys never produced any witnesses bolstering the claim made in last month's opening statements that Anthony had acted without apparent remorse in the weeks after her daughter's death because she had been molested by her father as a child, resulting in emotional problems. "If you do not at least present facts to support that argument, the jury is going to think you have no credibility," said Tim Jansen, a former federal prosecutor and criminal defense attorney in Tallahassee. "When you promise the jury something and don't deliver it you severely handicap your client's case and you undermine your credibility with that jury."

Instead, the 13-day defense primarily focused on poking holes in the prosecution's

contention that Anthony killed Caylee in June 2008 by covering her mouth with duct tape. Prosecutors said the woman dumped Caylee's body in the woods

near her parents' home and then resumed her life of partying and shopping. Their case relied on circumstantial and forensic evidence, and it did have

holes: Prosecutors had no witnesses who saw the killing or saw Casey Anthony with her daughter's body. And there was no certain proof that the child suffocated.

The prosecution began its rebuttal Thursday by walking through the door opened on Wednesday by the defense when it allowed parts of George Anthony's suicide note to be admitted. The note included George Anthony asking questions about the death of his granddaughter. Several members of the jury were glued to their monitors as the prosecutor projected the letter for them to read. "Who is involved with this stuff for Caylee?" George Anthony wrote at one point in the letter to his family in January 2009.

The defense said in its opening statement that Caylee drowned and that George Anthony, a former police officer, helped her cover up the death by making it look like a homicide and

dumping the body near their home, where it was found by a meter reader six months later. George Anthony has vehemently denied any involvement in Caylee's death, the disposal of her body or molesting his daughter.

Florida A&M law professor Karin Moore said she was "confused" throughout the case by the defense's approach.

"The defense could have attacked George Anthony weeks ago on cross-examination during the state's case, but waited until late in the trial," she said. "I think they waited too long to ask the big questions and got themselves in trouble."

The defense's final witnesses Thursday included Krystal Holloway, a woman who claims she had an affair with George Anthony that began after Caylee disappeared. She said he told her in November 2008 that Caylee's death was "an accident that snowballed out of control." □



Spectator Matthew Bartlett is taken away by sheriff's deputies on a contempt charge for his obscene gesture toward assistant state attorney Jeff Ashton, seated foreground, during Casey Anthony's murder trial at the Orange County Courthouse Thursday, June 30, 2011 in Orlando, Fla. Casey Anthony, 25, has plead not guilty in the death of her daughter, Caylee, and could face the death penalty if convicted of that charge.

(AP Photo/Red Huber, Pool)

Steven Colbert gets U.S. approval to raise political money

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Asked what point he was trying to make about corporate America, Colbert did not miss a beat.

"None," he quipped. "I want their money."

Colbert is forming Colbert Super PAC, a type of political action committee that will allow him to raise unlimited amounts of money from corporations, unions and individuals. The money will be used to support or oppose candidates in the 2012 elections through independent expenditures such as TV ads. Colbert has not indicated what kinds of candidates he might support. The FEC decision comes amid a broader erosion of campaign finance regulations in the wake of recent court rulings and with Republicans on the Federal Election Commission and elsewhere pushing for a rollback to give corporations and other wealthy donors stronger sway in financing campaigns. Col-

bert had asked the commission for a "media exemption" to allow him to use his show's airtime, staff

and other resources for his political action committee without having to publicly disclose them as in-kind

contributions from Comedy Central's parent company, Viacom Inc.

The FEC in its decision said



Comedian Stephen Colbert collects cash donations on the sidewalk in front of the Federal Election Commission in Washington, Thursday, June 30, 2011, after a hearing on his request to form a Political Action Committee.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Colbert must disclose some major expenses as in-kind contributions from the show's corporate owners. In-kind contributions are given as goods or services rather than money. Colbert has said those undisclosed contributions could include the use of his show's staff to create TV advertisements about candidates that would air as paid commercials on other shows and networks. The commission ruled 5-1 that he would have to publicly disclose as in-kind contributions from Viacom any ads produced by the show for Colbert Super PAC that air on other shows or networks. He also would have to disclose administrative costs that his show covers for Colbert Super PAC. While Colbert delights in lampooning politicians on his Comedy Central show, he raised some serious issues about public disclosure of corporate campaign contributions before the Federal Election Commission. □

U.S. Senate to work on debt limit impasse

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate gave in to prodding by President Barack Obama, abandoning plans to take a holiday recess next week and agreeing to work on a compromise for avoiding a government default and reducing mammoth U.S. debts.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, announced the scheduling change Thursday, a day after Obama urged lawmakers to act swiftly to extend the government's ability to borrow money, known as the debt ceiling. The Obama administration is warning that if the debt ceiling is not raised by Aug. 2, the U.S. would face its first default, potentially throwing world financial markets into turmoil.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives

had already been scheduled to work next week. The debate over the budget and the debt limit has

become Washington's hottest issue with huge political implications ahead of next year's presidential and



Having insisted there is too much to do for lawmakers to spend a week away from the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., center, walks with Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill., left, and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., after a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 30, 2011.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

congressional elections. Republicans are insisting on cutting at least \$2 trillion in spending cuts before they'll agree to increase the debt ceiling.

The White House has identified at least \$1.3 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years and is proposing up to \$400 billion in new tax revenue. Republicans oppose any tax increases.

At a news conference Wednesday, Obama sought to upend the Republican argument that deficit-cutting negotiations had come to a standstill over the White House desire to increase taxes.

"The tax cuts I'm proposing we get rid of are tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires,

tax breaks for oil compa-

nies and hedge fund managers, and corporate jet owners," Obama countered.

In calling on lawmakers to work through their holiday recess, Obama argued that his 12- and 10-year-old daughters show more discipline getting their work done.

Many congressional Republicans are not convinced financial turmoil would ensue if the debt ceiling isn't raised, and some administration officials worry that the markets could take a financial plunge before Congress acts.

It happened before, when the Bush administration tried to persuade Congress to intervene at the height of the financial crisis in 2008. □

Bulger racketeering case dropped for murder case

ABBY GOODMAN
© 2011 New York Times

BOSTON — A federal judge allowed prosecutors to drop a 1995 racketeering case against James "Whitey" Bulger on Thursday, saying it made sense for them to focus on a separate 2000 case charging Bulger in connection with 19 murders.

Prosecutors had argued that evidence against Bulger, an infamous Boston crime boss who was captured last week in California after 16 years on the run, is stronger in the murder case. The penalties are steeper, too: A conviction on a single murder charge could send Bulger, 81, to prison for the rest of his life.

"We do believe it's in the public interest for the government to go forward with its best and strongest case," Fred Wyshak, an assistant U.S. attorney, told Judge Mark L. Wolf of Federal District Court, pointing to the "19 families of homicide victims who have been waiting for years for



Former Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger, center, is followed by members of the media as he arrives at federal court before a scheduled appearance at the court by his brother James "Whitey" Bulger, in Boston, Thursday, June 30, 2011. James "Whitey" Bulger was arrested last week in Santa Monica, Calif., after 16 years as a fugitive.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

justice." Bulger's temporary lawyer had sought to consolidate the two cases under Wolf, but the judge said they were too different. He added that Bulger should have come out of hiding and asked for consolidation when the murder charges were brought if he felt so strongly about it. "He had the opportunity when he

was charged in 2000," Wolf said.

In a separate proceeding, Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler ruled that Bulger qualified for free legal counsel and appointed J.W. Carney Jr., a prominent criminal defense lawyer, to represent him. Bulger had filed a financial statement saying he could not afford counsel. □

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Cuomo will seek to lift ban on contentious type of drilling

D. HAKIM
N. CONFESSORE

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NEW YORK — The Cuomo administration is seeking to lift what has effectively been a moratorium in New York state on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial technique used to extract natural gas from shale, state environmental regulators said Thursday.

The process would be allowed on private lands, opening New York to one of the fastest-growing — critics would say reckless — areas of the energy industry. It would be banned inside New York City's sprawling upstate watershed, as well as inside a watershed used by Syracuse, and in underground water sources used by other cities and towns. It would also be banned on state lands, like parks and wildlife preserves.

It will most likely take months before the policy becomes official. On Friday, the State Department of Environmental Conservation will release a long-awaited study of the process, widely known as hydrofracking. The report will include recommendations about how to proceed, and then there will be a lengthy period for public comments before a final determination can be made.

The agency detailed its recommendations in a

statement it released Thursday afternoon.

"This report strikes the right balance between protecting our environment, watersheds, and drinking water and promoting economic development," said Joseph Martens, the commissioner of the department, a state agency controlled by

sand and chemicals, deep into the ground to break up rock formations and release natural gas. It is legal in a number of other states, including Pennsylvania.

A primary concern among environmental groups has been the leftover wastewater that can be contaminated with toxic materials

cleanly than coal and can reduce dependence on imported energy sources, and it can also bring jobs to economically battered regions of the state.

The statement released by the agency said hydrofracking would be permitted on private lands "under rigorous and effective



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks with reporters at an event where he signed a property-tax cap in Lynbrook, N.Y., on June 30, 2011. Cuomo's administration is expected to lift a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial technology used to extract natural gas from shale, according to people briefed on the administration's discussions.

(Marilynn K. Yee/The New York Times)

the governor's office. Hydrofracking has prompted intense protests from some environmental activists, who say it threatens the cleanliness of groundwater. The process involves injecting large volumes of water, mixed with

buried underground, including naturally occurring radioactive elements or carcinogens like benzene. Proponents, on the other hand, focus on the potential benefits. Drilling for natural gas has been promoted because it burns more

controls."

Among the other restrictions, there would be no permits for drilling "within 500 feet of a private water well or domestic-use spring," or within 2,000 feet of a public reservoir or drinking water supply without further study. The agency is also creating an advisory panel of environmental and industry experts to make recommendations on monitoring steps to mitigate potential hazards and explore fees that would be levied on the industry.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has generally had good relations with environmental groups; he shielded them from the kind of large cuts he dealt to hospitals and schools this year. □

Geithner stays

MARK LANDLER
© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner said Thursday that he planned to stay in his job "for the foreseeable future."

Normally, that would not qualify as news. But Geithner's comments came in a frenzied afternoon of speculation after news reports that he was considering leaving the Obama administration in the coming months, after a deal is reached with Congress to reduce the budget deficit.

Geithner's comments, made at a conference in Chicago organized by former President Bill Clinton, were clearly intended to douse that speculation, underscoring how worried the White House is about the potentially destabilizing effect of his departure as it struggles with a fragile recovery and holds tough negotiations with Congress to avert a debt crisis.

"I live for this work; it's the only work I've done, and I believe in it," Geithner said in reply to a question from Clinton about his career plans. "I'm going to be doing it for the foreseeable future."

Geithner, who turns 50 in August, said his son had decided to attend his final year of high school in New York, where Geithner previously lived, which meant that he would be commuting between Washington and New York for a while. □

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Republicans boycott a hearing on trade

BINYAMIN APPELBAUM

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WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans boycotted a preliminary hearing Thursday on free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, instead staging a simultaneous news conference and bringing the stop-and-go process to yet another halt. In an upside-down pair of performances, Democratic senators filled half a hearing room to declare their support for trade deals opposed by much of their party's political base, while Republican senators stood before television cameras to declare that they would not allow a hearing on legislation that much of their own base strongly supports. Sen. Orrin Hatch, the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, said Republicans were responding to a decision by the White House to include in the free trade legislation the expansion of a benefits program for workers who lose jobs to foreign competition.

"We made it clear time and time again that we would not stomach attaching a big government spending program onto these agreements," Hatch said. "The president knew where we stood and he decided to ignore those who don't agree with him." Democrats, in turn, said Republicans were blocking legislation that would help the economy.

"They want the country to be in as bad shape as possible because that might help them electorally," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y.

The breakdown came less than 48 hours after the Obama administration announced a deal with House Republicans and Senate Democrats over the terms of the benefits program. An expansion passed by Democrats in 2009 lapsed at the beginning of this year. The agreement would reinstate about 60 percent of the lapsed financing for an additional two years.

Democrats had demanded the deal as a condition of their support for the

trade agreements. House Republicans agreed reluctantly, after several weeks of negotiations.

The agreement, however, did not include Senate Republicans. Mere minutes before the Senate Finance Committee convened

nate tariffs on cross-border transactions, would expand annual exports of American goods by about \$12 billion, according to estimates by the U.S. International Trade Commission. It would also create new opportunities for American



Sens. John Thune, left, (R-S.D) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) speak at a press conference at the Capitol in Washington, on June 30, 2011. The Senate Republicans boycotted a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee over objections to a trade agreement with South Korea.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Thursday afternoon to consider the legislative package, the Republican members invoked Senate rules to prevent the meeting.

"That's it," said a frustrated Sen. Max Baucus, the committee's chairman. "We're waiting." Then, he got up and left.

The three free trade agreements, which would elimi-

nate providers to compete in the three countries. The pacts were negotiated by the Bush administration and are strongly backed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business trade groups. For most of the intervening years, Republicans pressed for a vote on the pacts while Democrats resisted.

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The Obama administration, which is focused on expanding trade to invigorate growth, changed that dynamic. It has sought to win Democratic support for the deals through measures to protect American workers from negative consequences. The compromise reached this week would provide \$964 million in additional financing for the benefits program, almost all of which would be spent by 2013.

The Obama administration plans to submit that deal as part of the pact with South Korea, to give Democrats the assurance that it will rise or fall with the pacts.

House Republicans say they will hold separate votes on the trade pact and the benefits program.

Senate Republicans, many of whom oppose any additional financing for the benefits program, and who lack the power to set the terms of debate, said that their actions Thursday were an assertion of the rights of the minority party to be heard and respected.

"We tried everything in our power to work with the majority to find a resolution," Hatch said.

Republicans cannot prevent the legislation from leaving the committee; they can only delay it. Democrats said continuing to do so would hurt the economy.

"This boycott means the opportunity to pass important job-creation legislation is now delayed," Baucus said. □

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Maggie's



Working vacations recharge actors

STEVEN MCELROY

© 2011 New York Times

A lot of us surely see summer as a chance for vacation and relaxation, but for actors it can be a busy time as theaters around the country come to life for another short season. Someone's got to work to provide these entertainments, after all.

For some actors, performing in Dennis, Mass., or Poughkeepsie, N.Y., might offer an opportunity to slip outside the box and take on a role that might be considered a stretch.

The season might even provide, as it does this summer for Patricia Richardson and Ken Olin, for example, a chance to perform onstage after two decades or longer focusing on film and television.

For Karen Allen, summer theater is providing a professional directing debut. In New York City too, where smaller theaters and the New York International Fringe Festival briefly steal the spotlight from Broadway during its annual post-

Tony Award lull, artists can find ways to exercise new muscles.

A handful of actors who are probably best known for something other than what

chael Weller heard that Karen Allen wanted to direct his 1970 play, "Moonchildren," at the Berkshire Theater Festival this summer, he was wary.



Actress Karen Allen in Stockbridge, Mass., June 18, 2011. Allen, perhaps forever to be known as Marion Ravenwood, the love interest of Indiana Jones in "Raiders of the Lost Ark," is set to direct for the first time, Michael Weller's 1970 play, "Moonchildren," at the Berkshire Theater Festival.

(Christopher Capozziello/The New York Times)

they're up to at the moment share what inspired them to do what they're doing.

KAREN ALLEN

When the playwright Mi-

"I thought, 'Oh, she's an actress, she'll just want to work with the actors.' But the first thing she said was, 'I want to talk to you about the order of the scenes,'" Weller recalled. "She was just dra-

matically so astute."

Allen, perhaps forever to be known as Marion Ravenwood, the love interest of Indiana Jones in "Raiders of the Lost Ark," is directing professionally for the first time, though she said she has been ready for a while. "There's always been a part of me that was very much interested in working as a director, but you end up sort of feeling like you can't straddle both," she said.

Allen, 59, was speaking from her home in Great Barrington, Mass., where she definitely straddles a few worlds. She has not worked extensively in film for some time (though she did reprise her role of Marion in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" in 2008), but she teaches and directs at Bard College at Simon's Rock.

She first directed "Moonchildren" there, she said, because she often looks for plays with young characters for her students. Allen has a whole other career

too, running Karen Allen Fiber Arts, a design studio and store where she creates sweaters and other knitwear.

She opened the studio in 2003, she said, when she wanted to "be in one place, so my son could have a life and go to school, and I could be a support system." Now her son, Nick, 20, is working as a chef.

"I feel like it gives me an opportunity to go back into the theater and work in film and theater both again," she said.

KEN OLIN

Ken Olin will be 57 soon, but these days he is sounding like an exuberant young actor as he prepares for his role in "F2M," a play written by his wife, Patricia Wettig. "It's the most fantastic thing to get in touch with," he said before a recent rehearsal.

"It's getting in touch with how it all began for me when I was 22 years old, and I came to New York, and I just wanted to be in the theater." □

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Hundreds of thousands strike over UK pension cuts

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of British teachers and public sector workers swapped classrooms and offices for picket lines Thursday in what unions hope will be the first salvo in a summer of discontent against the Conservative-led government's austerity plans. Airport operators had warned there could be long lines at immigration entry points because of walkouts by passport officers, but most of Britain's airports, including London's Heathrow and Manchester, said it was business as usual. One union leader estimated more than 500,000 teachers and civil servants joined the one-day strike, affecting courthouses, tax offices and employment centers, as well as schools. The government estimated 100,000 strikers — although its tally did not include teachers, whose walkout closed or disrupted 11,000 schools in England and Wales. "This is the best-supported strike we've ever had," union leader Mark Serwotka told Channel 4 News. But the government disputed the claims, saying the strike wasn't as well-supported as the unions were making it out to be. Very few civil servants wanted this strike at all," Cabinet Office minister Francis Maude said in a statement. Small groups of anti-capitalist protesters



British police officers remove a protester from the street as a group took part in a protest to mark a nationwide day of strikes in London, Thursday, June 30, 2011. British teachers and public service workers swapped classrooms and offices for picket lines Thursday as hundreds of thousands walked off the job to protest pension cuts.

(AP Photo/Leftaris Pitarakis)

scuffled with police as the march neared Parliament, and were cordoned in by officers. Police said 41 people had been arrested over the past 24 hours, although the demonstrations were overwhelmingly peaceful. The government insists everyone must share the pain as it cuts 80 billion pounds (\$130 billion) from public spending to reduce Britain's huge deficit, swollen after the government spent billions bailing out failing banks. It is cutting civil service jobs and benefits, raising the state pension

age from 65 to 66, hiking the amount public sector employees contribute to

pensions and reducing their retirement payouts. But Britain is not Greece,

whose crippling debt crisis has led to violent protests. Britain's economy remains weak as it emerges from recession, but the general mood is one of apprehension rather than anger. Earlier in the day, Serwotka said that officials were ducking the real issues. "It's time for the government to engage properly," he said. "It has shown it is unwilling to move on any of the central issues — that public sector workers will have to work up to eight years longer, thousands of jobs are at stake, lower pensions are set to cost three times as much, and pay is frozen while inflation soars. Craig Phelan, a professor of modern history at Kingston University, says attitudes have changed dramatically since the 1980s, when unions took on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in grinding conflicts like a yearlong miners' strike — and lost. □

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Mexico troops detain hit man linked to mass graves



Abraham Barrios Caporal, alias "Erasmo," is shown to the media during a news conference in Mexico City, Thursday June 30, 2011. Barrios, who was detained by Army soldiers on Tuesday, is allegedly a member of Los Zetas drug cartel and was presumably involved in the kidnapping and killing of people found in clandestine mass graves in the northern state of Tamaulipas.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

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A. GOMEZ LICON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Soldiers have detained an alleged hit man who is accused of kidnapping bus passengers, killing them and burying them in mass graves in northern Mexico, authorities said Thursday. Abraham Barrios Caporal, 26, was captured in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz and has acknowledged working for the Zetas drug cartel, Mexico's Defense Department said in a statement.

Barrios Caporal is suspected of taking part in the killings of bus passengers and their burial in clandestine graves at a ranch in the town of San Fernando in Tamaulipas state, the department said.

Barrios Caporal was arrested in the city of Coatzacoalcos Tuesday along with three other members of his cell, said army spokesman, Col. Ricardo Trevilla. Authorities in Tamaulipas began uncovering bodies

in mass graves in early April following reports that passengers were being pulled off buses at gunpoint.

As of early June, 193 bodies had been found in 26 graves.

Officials say most of those were Mexican migrants heading to the United States who were kidnapped off buses and killed by the Zetas drug cartel.

Barrios Caporal told author-

ties some of the passengers were kidnapped because were suspected of being members of the rival Gulf cartel.

San Fernando is the same place where 72 Central and South American migrants were slaughtered last August also by the Zetas.

Barrios Caporal is also suspected in that mass killing, the department said. □

Pres. Chavez says surgery removed tumor in Cuba



In this photo released by Granma newspaper, Cuba's Fidel Castro, left, and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez speak in an unknown location in Havana, Cuba. Chavez underwent surgery in Cuba two weeks ago and has been unusually quiet since then. Allies of Chavez have insisted the leader is firmly in control of the country and improving from his operation for a pelvic abscess. Chavez arrived to Havana on June 8 and had surgery on June 10.

(AP Photo/Granma)

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez told his countrymen Thursday night that he underwent a second surgery in Cuba for the removal of a cancerous growth.

Chavez said in a televised talk that the operation took out a tumor in which there were "cancerous cells." He called it "this new battle that life has placed before us." It was unclear when his message was recorded. Chavez's appearance came as Venezuelans speculated that he may be seriously ill because of his long stay in Cuba, mainly in seclusion. □

Irish boat drops out of flotilla, cites sabotage

M. HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An Irish ship has dropped out of the pro-Palestinian flotilla planning to break Israel's blockade of Gaza, citing sabotage, and a U.S. ship declared it may set sail from a Greek port for Gaza without permission, activists said. Up to 400 international activists had been due to sail this week to Gaza aboard 10 ships leaving from Greece to protest the naval blockade that Israel imposed on the Palestinian territory after Hamas militants overran it in 2007.

An Israeli raid on a similar flotilla last year killed nine activists on a Turkish ship and each side blamed the other for the violence.

The Irish ship MV Saoirse on Thursday had to abandon plans to set sail because of what it called Israeli sabotage. Activist Huwaida Arraf told Israel's Army Radio that the ship's engine was damaged while in port and could have lead to deaths on board.

"When the engine was started, it completely bent," Arraf said. "While out at sea, if this would have happened, if it would have bent in this way, the boat would have started taking on water and it could have led to fatalities."

The alleged sabotage occurred at the Turkish coastal town of Gocek where the MV Saoirse has been berthed for the past few weeks, organizers said.

Earlier this week, activists said Israeli agents damaged the propeller of a Swedish ship in the Greek port.

Israel has refused AP requests for comment on the allegations.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner — asked to comment Thurs-

day on the alleged sabotage — said there was no proof it had taken place due to a lack of "independent confirmation."

Toner, speaking to reporters in Washington, said State Department opinion is "the flotillas are a bad idea," and there're other ways to get this kind of assistance to Gaza.

"Our bottom line is, we don't want to see anyone put at risk. And that would include any action to sabotage these boats but also the boats themselves — the flotillas themselves — will put these individuals at risk." On Thursday, American activist Ann Wright said Greek authorities were bowing to Israeli pressure and deliberately stalling the departure of 53 passengers and crew — including 11 journalists — aboard a ship named the Audacity of Hope from a port near Athens.

"We're fed up with it already, we've already waited seven days. We were ready to go a week ago," Wright said.

She wouldn't say how long activists would wait for the all-clear before the 33-meter (108-foot) ferry begins its journey. But she said the Greek coast guard would "probably" stop the boat shortly after departing.

Audacity of Hope passenger Alice Walker, author of the acclaimed novel "The Color Purple," on Thursday read to journalists letters and cards that American children are sending to Gaza residents via the ship.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke about the flotilla at Thursday evening at a graduation ceremony for new pilots in central Israel, praising the action of Greek



An activist plays a trumpet as others hold banners on their boat named "Audacity of Hope" moored in Perama, near Athens, Greece, Thursday, June 30, 2011. Organizers of a pro-Palestinian flotilla that will try to break Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip accused Israel of sabotaging a second ship.

(AP Photo/Darko Bandic)

Prime Minister George Papandreou.

"Sometimes we are required not only to repel physical attacks by our enemies but also repel the attacks against our right to defend ourselves. In that regard, I want to thank the many world leaders who spoke out and acted lately against the flotilla provocation," he said.

"Israel has the full right to act against attempts to legitimize the smuggling of missiles, rockets and other weapons to the terror enclave of Hamas," he added.

The U.N.'s top human rights official on Thursday welcomed the Israeli government's decision to drop its threat to issue deportation orders against journalists on the flotilla. □

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Journalist suspended from MSNBC for Obama remark

BRIAN STELTER

JEREMY W. PETERS

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MSNBC suspended one of its best-known political analysts, Mark Halperin, on Thursday morning after he directed a derogatory comment at President Barack Obama on the channel's morning show "Morning Joe."

Sitting on the set of "Morning Joe," Halperin smiled mischievously as he disparaged Obama's behavior at a news conference a day earlier. "I thought he was kind of a dick yesterday," Halperin said.

He apologized on the program a few minutes later and said he deeply regretted making the comment. Immediately after the show concluded at 9 a.m., a meeting was convened about the incident, and by 10:30 a.m., the channel said Halperin had been suspended "indefinitely" from his political analyst position. "Mark Halperin's comments this morning were completely inappropriate

and unacceptable," the MSNBC said in a statement. "We apologize to the president, the White House and all of our viewers. We strive for a high level of discourse,

"with everything in MSNBC's statement about my remark" and added, "I believe that the step they are taking in response is totally appropriate."



In this photo, Mark Halperin, center, political analyst and Editor-at-Large for "Time" magazine, is shown during at National Media Symposium in the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center for Education & Outreach, in Oklahoma City. MSNBC suspended political analyst Halperin for an off-color remark about President Barack Obama on "Morning Joe" Thursday, June 30, 2011.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki, file)

and comments like these have no place on our air." At the same time, in his own statement, Halperin said he agreed completely

Jay Carney, the White House spokesman, said Thursday afternoon that he had expressed to network executives that the com-

ment was inappropriate. "It would be inappropriate to say that about any president," Carney said at the daily White House press briefing.

Before Halperin made the quip on the show he asked if there was a seven-second delay available, a feature of television control rooms used to bleep out curse words on live TV, which was added on "Morning Joe" in 2008 after a prior slip of the tongue.

"Come on, take a chance," the show's co-host, Joe Scarborough, said, encouraging him. After hearing the comment, Scarborough said, "Delay that."

Scarborough later complained on the air that the show's executive producer failed to bleep the word. "I would tell you what I think of him, but he doesn't know what button to push," he said.

In a tacit admission that the freewheeling talk on cable television can sometimes go too far, MSNBC, a unit of Comcast's NBC Universal division, has suspended other figures on the air in the past for incendiary comments. Most recently, Ed Schultz, the channel's 10 p.m. host, was suspended for a week in May after disparaging Laura Ingraham, a conservative commentator. □

Strauss-Kahn case in danger

JIM DWYER

W. K. RASHBAUM

JOHN ELIGON

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NEW YORK — The sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn is on the verge of collapse as investigators have uncovered major holes in the credibility of the housekeeper who charged that he attacked her in his Manhattan hotel suite in May, according to two well-placed law enforcement officials.

Although forensic tests found unambiguous evidence of a sexual encounter between Strauss-Kahn, a French politician, and the woman, prosecutors do not believe much of what the accuser has told them about the circumstances or about herself.

Since her initial allegation May 14, the accuser has repeatedly lied, one of the law enforcement officials said. Senior prosecutors met with lawyers for Strauss-Kahn on Thursday and provided details about their findings, and the parties are discussing whether to dismiss the felony charges. Among the discoveries, one of the officials said, are issues involving the asylum application of the 32-year-old housekeeper, who is Guinean, and possible links to criminal activities, including drug dealing and money laundering. □



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Caribbean Briefs

Raid in 'La Perla' slum targets the infamous

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — It was always Puerto Rico's most famous slum, and the most picturesque, but the extent of criminality in La Perla apparently extended far beyond the colonial walls and cobblestone streets of Old San Juan. U.S. federal agents and Puerto Rican police swept through La Perla on Wednesday, breaking down doors and rousing people from sleep in what authorities said was the largest and most comprehensive raid ever in the community perched at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. Nearly 70 people had been arrested on drug and weapons charges by Thursday and several dozen more were being sought, said Javier Pena, special agent in charge of the Caribbean division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

La Perla, a warren of tightly packed homes just a short walk from Puerto Rico's best known tourist district and main government offices, has long been known as a retail drug bazaar. But Pena said a two-year investigation also revealed that the chief drug gang based there was receiving large shipments of South American narcotics and distributing them across the island, becoming the largest heroin supplier in the U.S. territory. An indictment alleges they cleared at least \$20 million though officials say that's likely a conservative estimate of their total earnings. □

Islanders honor ashes of New York pastor

HAVANA (AP) — The ashes of a U.S. pastor who led annual relief pilgrimages to Cuba in defiance of Washington's decades-old trade embargo have gone on display at a seminary on the island. The regional Communist Party newspaper Giron says religious leaders and worshippers paid their respects Thursday to the late Rev. Lucius Walker in Matanzas province.

A photo on Giron's website shows a simple box and a framed photo of Walker on an altar with flowers and a lit candle, underneath Cuban and American flags. Walker headed the nonprofit Pastors for Peace and led 21 aid trips to Cuba. He died of a heart attack in New York last year at age 80. Cuban officials have said Walker's ashes will be laid to rest in a Havana park according to his wishes. □

Ex-NBA player Ortiz arrested in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Former NBA player Jose Ortiz was arrested in Puerto Rico after federal agents seized 218 marijuana plants at his house along with 40 rounds of assault-rifle ammunition, the U.S. Attorney's office said Thursday. He is accused of possession with intent to distribute marijuana plants and faces a minimum of five years in prison if found guilty, U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez said.

"This should send a message," she said. The 47-year-old Ortiz, among the best basketball players the island has produced, appeared in court Thursday and agreed to enter a drug rehabilitation program. He will remain at the undisclosed institution until his next hearing July 26. Starting on that date, the U.S. Attorney's Office has 30 days to present the case to a grand jury.

Defense attorney Hector Ramos said Ortiz is not yet required to enter a plea. "This office is committed to helping him in any way we can," Ramos said, referring to the Public Defender's Office.

Federal agents Wednesday raided the home he was renting in the central mountain town of Cayey after a monthlong investigation following a tip Immigration and Customs Enforcement received. □



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The Half Blood Prince - Tuesday July 12
The Deathly Hallows: Part 1 - Wednesday July 13

IT ALL ENDS

JULY 14

Wrestling with recovery is no fairy tale

DAVID CARR

© 2011 New York Times

Somewhere near the middle of "The... With the Hat," Stephen Adly Guirgis' lacerating portrait of a couple trapped in the self-inflicted prison of addiction, it becomes clear that simply putting the cork in the bot-

herâ daily existence.

Veronica has issues with recovery talk. It is, as she says, all well and good that people head into church basements, drink coffee and quit killing themselves with chemicals. But the haze of goodness and self-realization that surrounds it? Not so

clown like the (expletive)Â I see in your meetings, then you what? – pass the joint, shake me a margarita, and kiss my" – well, you get the picture.

What makes "Hat" (which finishes its Tony-nominated run on July 17) so remarkable to those of us who

grabbed with two desperate hands in spite of its limits. "Hat" demonstrates – in ways that related movies, plays and television shows often don't – that recovery is full of holes, limits and quandaries that are enduring. You can recover, at least a day at a time, from active addiction, but that part about being a jerk? That's still your problem.

From "Days of Wine and Roses" to "Leaving Las Vegas" the inexorable downward spiral has been a film staple for decades, and the blood-alcohol level in popular culture certainly remains high. But while whiskey and its fellow travelers have played a large role in dramas, recovery from addiction is increasingly showing up as a co-star, like in "Rachel Getting Married," in which Anne Hathaway plays a fresh, raw recruit to the land of sober living.

The dramatic devices are familiar: A guy or a girl tips over and then finally admits his or her powerlessness to a sponsor (usually played by Steve Earle), and after a meeting in some church basement he or she is

there is a set piece about a meeting of sharks who've sworn off eating fish, one arduous day at a time. The metaphor applies in part because, like addicts and drunks, the sharks are fighting against who they actually are. A few years ago I trafficked in some of the same motifs, writing my own recovery memoir that became part of the giant pile of woe and redemption. In it I suggested that the arc of the addict, especially in recollection, is as predictable as a Hallmark movie. In the telling, it goes like this: I had a beer with friends. I shot dope into my neck. I got in trouble.

I saw the error of my ways. I found Jesus or 12 steps or bhakti yoga.

Now everything is new again. It's an old story that makes for riveting viewing, but does not have the virtue of being true.

In some ways a spate of reality-TV shows come closer; there you will see a lurid, discomfiting, yet undeniably powerful take on the trip through abasement and redemption.

"Intervention," on A&E, holds out the promiseÂ that if a hopeless case is confronted by a Road to Damascus moment, he or she would choose the right fork. But many of those episodes did not end in a hug. Meanwhile, on VH1's "Celebrity Rehab," D-listers who want to lead an A-list quality of life line up for inspection, but continue to fall on their faces, often when the cameras are gone.Â In Season 1 Dr. Drew Pinsky struggled valiantly and ineffectually to help Jeff Conaway, an actor whose glory days date back to "Grease." The life he chose overtook him and he ended up dead this year, like so many others in the real world. Tragically, the former Alice in Chains bassist Mike Starr, from Season 3, did not make it either. And the drug-related arrests of other former cast members are a lesson in what happens to those who don't go along with the recovery narrative.□



Elizabeth Rodriguez in Stephen Adly Guirgis' "The... With the Hat," in New York. Guirgis' Tony-nominated play about addiction, finishes its run on July 17.

(Sara Krulwich/The New York Times)

tle will not fix everything. Or anything, really.

Jackie (played at high volume and high impact by Bobby Cannavale) is a handsome ball of idÂ who is doing his best to stay sober, one day at a time. He would never be mistaken for a Mensa member, but he is smart enough to know that if he continues to use mood-altering substances, he will be back in jail, or in a mental hospital, or, if things get really wobbly, buried in a box.

So he does everything his sponsor, Ralph D. (Chris Rock), tells him, reading the recovery literature, going to the meetings, walking the walk. The only thing that stands between Jackie and the promise of blissful sobriety is Veronica (Elizabeth Rodriguez), the love of his life, and, as luck would have it, a fulminating addict who will do anything to hang onto the chemicals that are baked into



Bobby Cannavale, left, and Chris Rock in Stephen Adly Guirgis' "The... With the Hat," in New York. Guirgis' Tony-nominated play about addiction, finishes its run on July 17.

(Sara Krulwich/The New York Times)

much. "In my book if giving up my substances means I am going to turn into a navel-gazing, self-satisfied

reside in its subject area is its authenticity. In this play recovery is not a sideshow, or some kind of fable. It is

good to go. The meme has become so common that even kids are in on the joke: In "Finding Nemo"

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Aruba Hi-Winds draws 180 amateur participants

FISHERMAN'S HUTS - Tonight, the popular Jeni Conde will be live on stage at 6:30 pm to perform for the participants and spectators of the 25th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds. Happy hour starts at 4 pm and Jeni will be followed by DJ Cronicbox and a live percussion session until midnight. The party will continue all the way through Monday night with lots of fun and live entertainment.

The Aruba Hi-Winds has drawn 180 amateur participants from all over the world to vie for coveted titles in many different disciplines and age brackets.

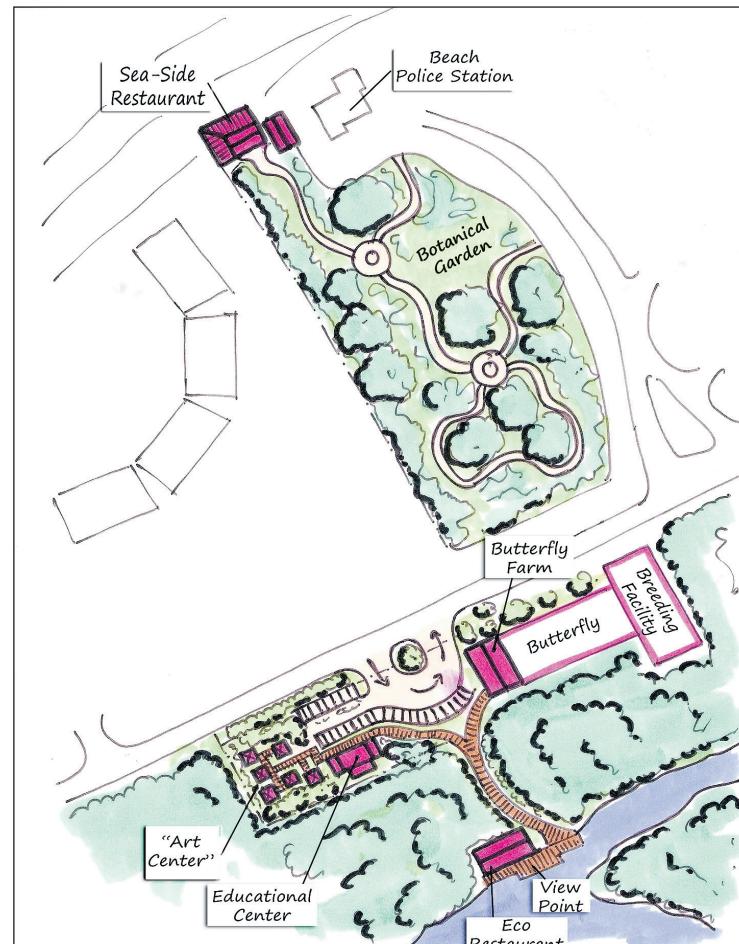
Since its early years in the mid-eighties, when windsurfing greats like Robby Naish and Bjorn Dunkerbeck raced in Aruba year after year, the Aruba Hi-Winds has remained one of the biggest names in windsurfing events in the Caribbean, including freestyle windsurfing and Kiteboarding.

Aruba is blessed with almost ideal wind and water conditions for windsurfing and Kiteboarding. Whether you're a traditional downwind slalom racer, a fearless freestyler or if you've joined the newest craze in watersports: kiteboarding, the Aruba Hi-Winds is there for you!

Besides being a first-rate windsurfing and Kiteboarding event, the Aruba Hi-Winds is renowned for having an extensive and exhilarating entertainment and social program for its competitors and friends. Participating in the Aruba Hi-Winds means partying from start to finish! Don't miss the fun! □

TERA project to provide an interactive site

New "green" island attraction promises natural draw



ORANJESTAD - A new island attraction within the tourism corridor promises to be a natural draw for both visitors as well as island residents. The proposed site of TERA Park includes plans for the development of a botanical garden, education center, bird observatory, art center and eco-restaurant within the Linear Park, at the intersection of Eagle and Palm Beach. TERA Park is part of the TERA Aruba project, a non-profit enterprise devoted to the creation and operation of a multi-component, ecologically-

based and educationally-focused attraction. "TERA Park was conceived as a way to ensure land slated as a protected, green area is forever utilized for that purpose, as well as works to actively contribute to fostering ecologically-based initiatives," explains project founder and TERA Aruba Foundation chairperson Tony Cox. "We embrace and applaud the efforts the government is currently pursuing in its vision for sustainable development and a more ecologically-sound future for the island. The TERA project is well in line with this same goal." Tony, together with his wife Lori Cox, are well-known on Aruba for building the Butterfly Farm from the ground up, an attraction that for a dozen years has and continues to delight visitors by showcasing the beauty of the natural world. TERA Park takes that idea several steps forward in providing a working, green model that fosters appreciation of Aruba's natural and cultural attributes as well as offers unique island experiences. All areas of the site would incorporate the use of green buildings and structures, alternative energy sources and techniques, waste reduction methods and practices (reduce, re-use, refuse, recycle and reforest) as well as aesthetically-attractive and authentic details, conveying a sense of place as well as purpose. "Our intention is to involve the entire community of Aruba, bringing like-minded foundations, youth groups, interested individuals and guests together through educational programs, unique activities and collaborative efforts that exponentially increase the growth of green ideas," comments Tony. "We are grateful for the interest of the government in the TERA Park proposal. We look forward to working together further in fulfilling what is destined to be a valuable addition to Aruba's landscape." TERA Park would stretch from Signature Park, between the Divi Phoenix and Westin resorts, and directly across the street on the land adjacent to the Butterfly Farm, beautifying the area and creating an attraction that would draw the interest of visitors from abroad as well as aiding sustainable development goals. An official introduction of TERA Park is slated to take place during the Green Aruba conference this coming October. □

Weekly Feel Good Bingo at Stellaris Casino

Progressive Bingo Jackpot is at \$129,000

PALM BEACH - The Stellaris Casino invites you to the Feel Good Bingo weekly with a progressive bingo jackpot of 129,000.00 dollars, accumulating constantly.

On Mondays and Thursdays you can play bingo at 1:00 pm in the largest casino of Aruba. Bingo cards can be purchased from 10:00 am on at the casino cage. On Saturdays and Sundays bingo starts at 4:00 pm and bingo card sales start at 1:00 pm or during the pre-sale on Friday's and Saturday's from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Buy your bingo cards for only \$6.65 and enjoy nine games with a total of 2,125.00 dollars in cash prizes and receive game ten for free (Jackpot bingo included). Ask the VIP Desk attendant for more information on how to win additional prizes during the bingo with Pegadito and Hot Shot of the Month. Guests can accumulate double points on the newest slot machines Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon and from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Saturdays and Sundays double points can be obtained from 2:00 - 3:00 pm and 8:00 - 9:00 pm. □



Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba unveils its Summer Vacation Program



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's Archeological Museum unveiled its Summer Vacation Program recently presenting the public with a diverse array of youth-oriented activities. Parents are hereby encouraged to enroll their children in order to broaden their horizons in the Summer and put the time

spent on vacation to good use, into physical activity and cultural enrichment. The modern, state of the art museum, in the heart of Oranjestad, houses the island's relics of the past and also serves as a vibrant community center and a hub of culture, art and education. Inspired by the American first lady Michelle Obama

the Let's Move, Museums & Gardens activity was conceived for the summer of 2011 and scheduled to debut on July 8th. In partnership with the Historical Museum, Arikok National Park, UNOCA, Meta-Corp and the Department of Culture, Aruba's Archeological Museum will present a fun day on July 8th, brimming with physical activities, designed to get the students moving and active during their vacation. The Project Coordinator for Move Your Body, a US educated Exercise Science graduate, Shardea Croes elaborated on the Summer Vacation activity targeting three different age-groups, in three activity cycles, sharing just one theme, namely Movement within Landscape. The first cycle for students ages 14 to 17, will be taking

place July 11 to 15 and will include a flashlight tour of the museum and a scavenger hunt at Arikok Park, as well as a drama workshop with John Freddy Montoya. The second cycle for students ages 10 to 13 will take place July 18 to July 22 and will include banner painting at UNOCA, gold scavenging at Arikok Park, and a hunting competition at the Archeological museum, recreating the island's former inhabitants, the Amer-Indian life-style. The third cycle for student ages 6 to 9 will take place July 27 to Aug 1 and will include story telling at Unoca, a visit to exhibitions, and a presentation of traditional dances at the Historical Museum. Those interested may contact 582 8879 and ask for Shardea Croes, or e-mail her at shard-eacres@yahoo.com

Beside Move your Body, and Movement within Landscape, the museum is planning an art exhibition titled Transformation in Land-scape, an interesting show curated by Elvis Lopez, of Atelier 89. Lopez picked a number of promising young local artist to exhibit their contemporary work at the museum, work dedicated to nature, recycling, and organic materials. The upcoming artists Priscilla Lacle, Johannes Donati, Angelina Henriquez and Wouter van Romondt, will each show 3 works. The press conference at the Archeological Museum was conducted by Marguerita Wever who informed the press that last year more than 600 students participated in the museum's summer program and for 2011 students are invited to participate for as little as Awg 25 per activity cycle, which includes a daily snack. Pictured here, the press conference at the Museum with Shardea Croes, Marguerita Wever, Priscilla Lacle and a group of youngsters who made a presentation of behalf of Move Your body. □



Renaissance Marketplace celebrates Curacao's "Dia di Himno & Bandera"

ORANJESTAD -- On Saturday July 2nd Renaissance Marketplace will celebrate the National Day of Curacao hosting an evening dedicated to the culture & tradition of our sister island. For the past six years, a special committee aptly named Celebracion dia di Curacao, has dedicated efforts toward cultural exchange and mutual appreciation among the neighboring nations, resulting in the festive celebration of Curacao's national holiday for the past four consecutive years at the Renaissance Marketplace. The islands of Aruba & Curacao while similar in many aspects, including language and customs, still differ in many ways which makes the idea of cultural exchange so interesting and so important for the promotion of understanding in the region.

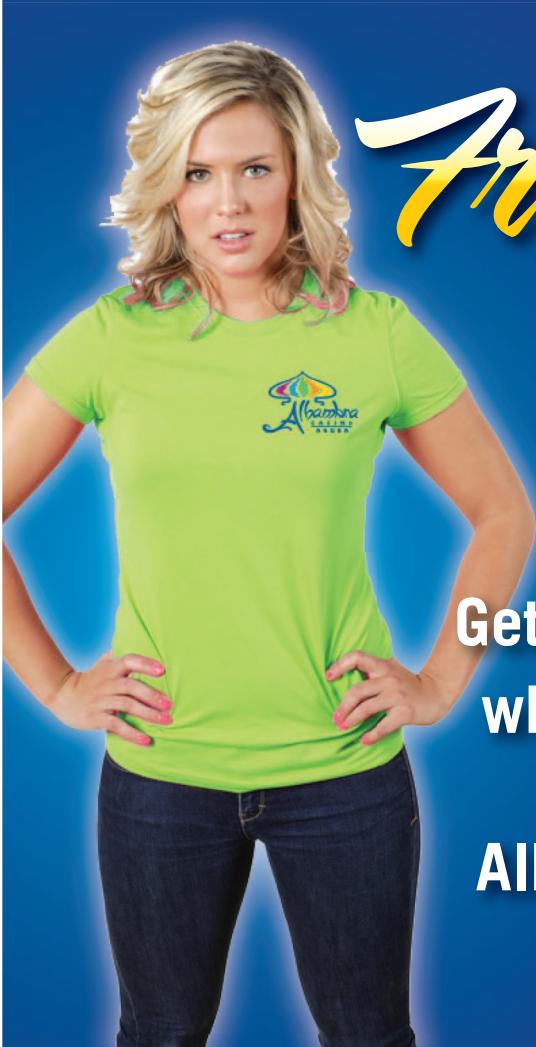


Bringing the local community together to help celebrate Curacao's national holiday drives the island's closer to each other fostering tolerance and cooperation. A total of 5 folkloric dance groups will be on the island, and they will perform at the Renaissance Marketplace showcasing Curacao's famous Tambu which traces its origins to Africa and the harvest rituals brought over to the new world by African slaves. The colorful costumes

and infectious music promise to make the event a total success. The show will take place on Saturday, July 2nd, 2011 from 7pm - 8:30pm, it is free of charge and the Renaissance Marketplace invites you to come with your friends and family members to celebrate rich cultural heritage! The restaurants and stores at the Renaissance Marketplace are open from 10am till late in the evening, providing a full range of dining choices from fast-food to gourmet,



and the prospect of shopping finds including clothing, jewelry, souvenirs, designer sunglasses and gifts, as well as entertainment at the movie theaters, cafes and nightlife spots and nearby Seaport Casino. □



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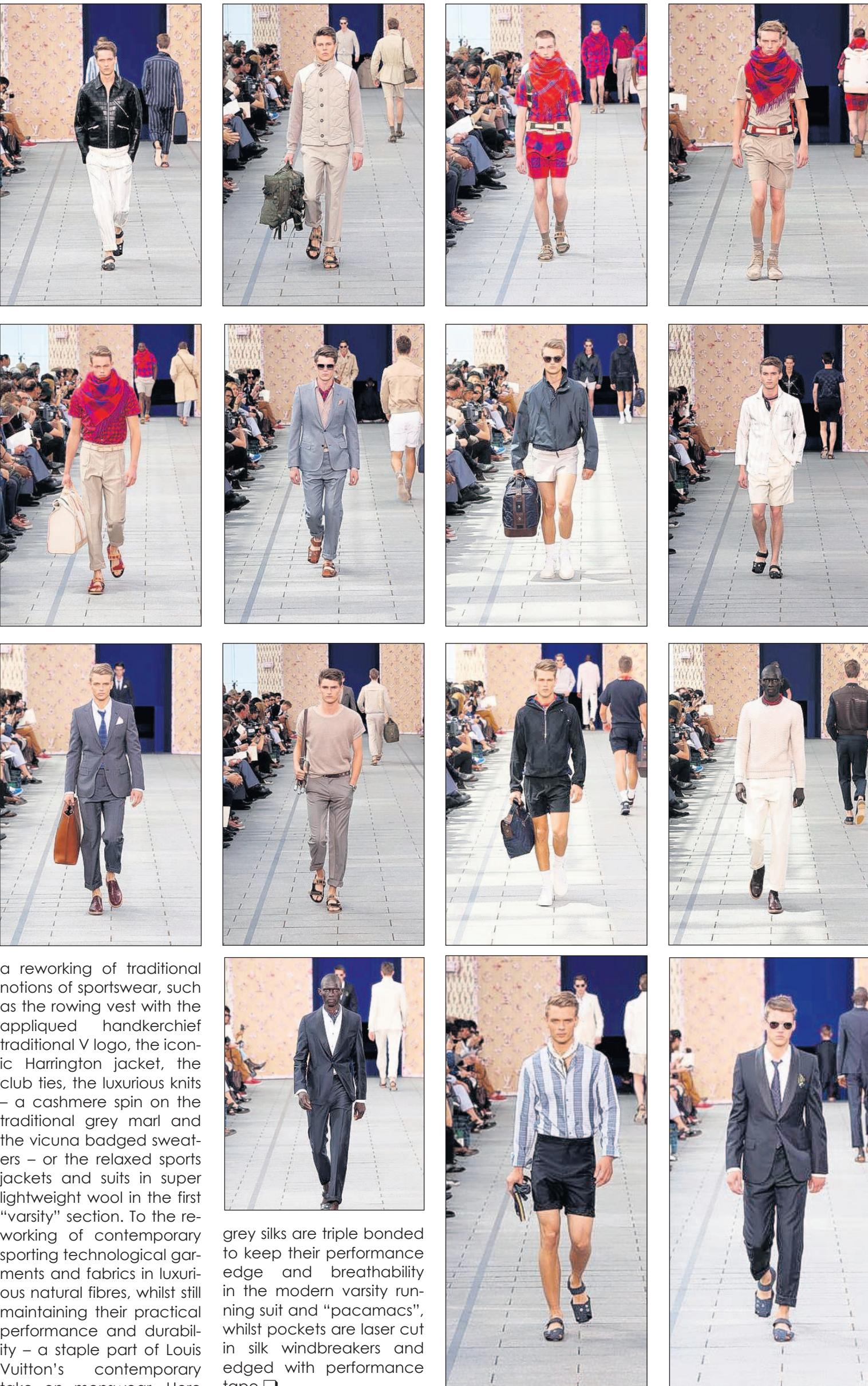
HOMME, Louis Vuitton's Spring-Summer 2012 collection

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Louis Vuitton Boutique has shared a press release with us showcasing a journey, both literal and metaphorical, at the heart of Louis Vuitton's Spring-Summer 2012 collection. "At its simplest level, it is about the idea of travel and what it means at this point in time," explains Kim Jones, the Men's Style Director, who will sign his debut collection for Louis Vuitton under the Artistic Direction of Marc Jacobs. "After all travel forms the foundation of the Vuitton brand. This is a fundamental part of the lineage and language of Louis Vuitton and is a central component of what it stands for today," continues Jones. "At the same time, the collection is looking at the idea of a personal journey. It forms the notion of a coming-of-age through exploration and travel."

From the Ivy League to Africa and then the decadence of Jet Set nightlife, this "bildungsroman" is inspired by the figure of Peter Beard, the artist and long-term chronicler of East Africa and its wildlife. It was not uncommon to find this Yale graduate amongst the New York demi-monde of the seventies, in the South of France with The Rolling Stones, or on his ranch in Kenya adjacent to Karen Blixen's. "He is a hero of mine," says Jones of the artist. "This is a nod to him and a fictionalized imagining of that period of travel to Africa in the sixties and seventies. At the same time I grew up in Africa and it is a subject I frequently return to. It is also about how men live their lives, travel and reach maturity now with a practical view of what they want to wear."

In so keeping, this season sees a focus on the insouciant, practical and luxurious style of a modern global traveler. It takes into account both an appreciation for traditional garments and a contemporary approach to dress and spans the divide between the two.

From the re-imagining of a preppy athleticism and



a reworking of traditional notions of sportswear, such as the rowing vest with the appliqued handkerchief traditional V logo, the iconic Harrington jacket, the club ties, the luxurious knits – a cashmere spin on the traditional grey marl and the vicuna badged sweaters – or the relaxed sports jackets and suits in super lightweight wool in the first "varsity" section. To the reworking of contemporary sporting technological garments and fabrics in luxurious natural fibres, whilst still maintaining their practical performance and durability – a staple part of Louis Vuitton's contemporary take on menswear. Here



grey silks are triple bonded to keep their performance edge and breathability in the modern varsity running suit and "pacamacs", whilst pockets are laser cut in silk windbreakers and edged with performance tape. □



Sharapova reaches 1st Wimbledon final since '04

Russia's Maria Sharapova serves to Germany's Sabine Lisicki during their semifinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 30, 2011.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

LABOR WOES



NBA commissioner David Stern speaks to reporters after a meeting with the players' union, Thursday, June 30, 2011 in New York. Despite a three-hour meeting Thursday, the sides could not close the enormous gap that remained in their positions.

Associated Press
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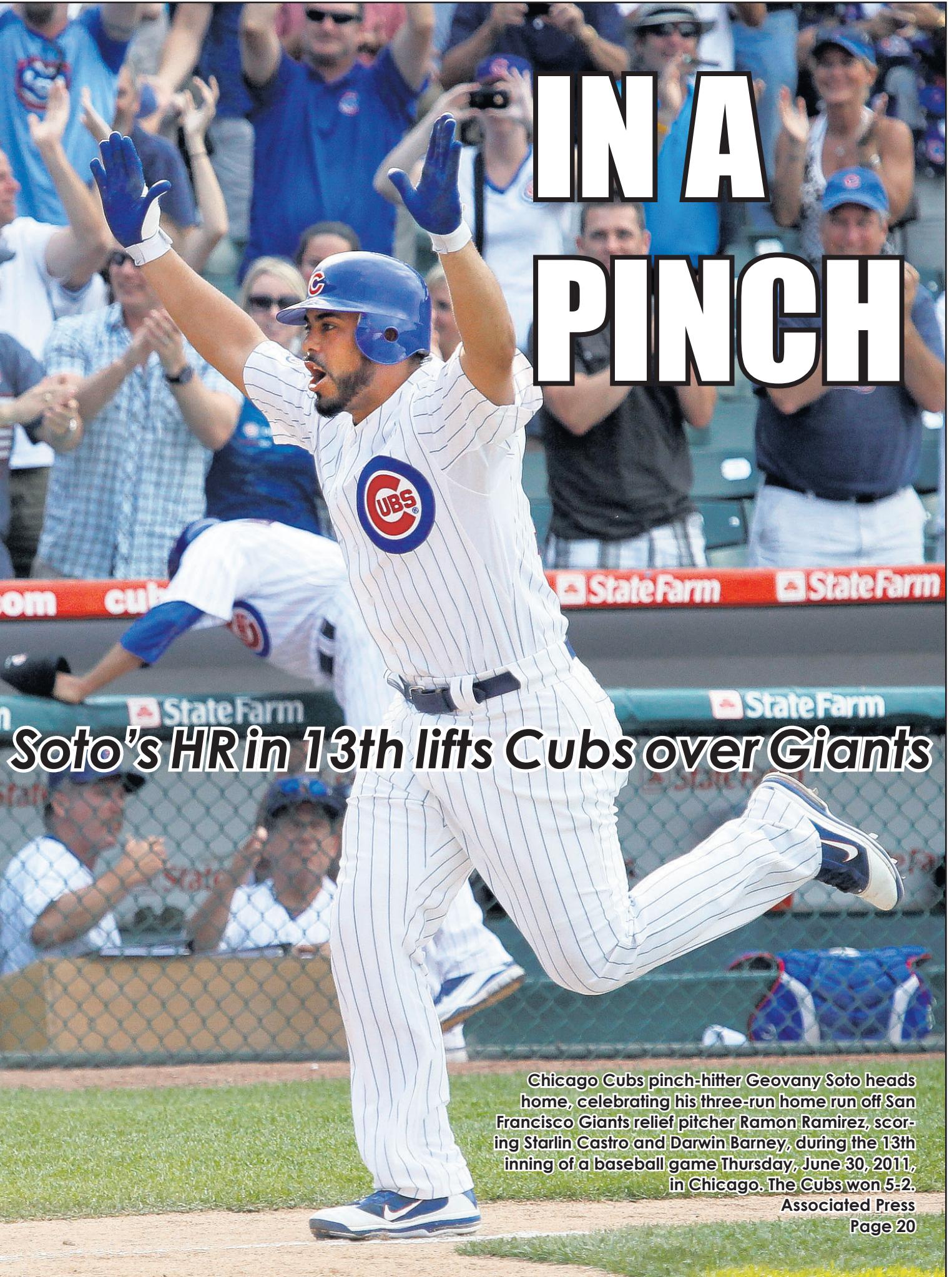
Powell sets season-best 9.78 in 100 at Lausanne



Asafa Powell, from Jamaica, in action during the men's 100m race, at the Athletissima IAAF Diamond League international athletics meeting in the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Thursday June 30, 2011.

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IN A PINCH



Maria Sharapova, Kvitova reach Wimbledon final

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— It was all about the serves at Wimbledon on Thursday, and it was Maria Sharapova and Petra Kvitova who survived the ups and downs on Centre Court to reach the final. The fifth-seeded Sharapova, who won the first of her three Grand Slam titles at the All England Club in 2004, overcame 13 double-faults to beat Sabine Lisicki 6-4, 6-3. Kvitova reached her first major final by hitting nine aces in a 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 win over Victoria Azarenka.

Sharapova had two double-faults in her opening service game, the second to get broken. She had two more while trailing 3-0, but saved a break point and then won 12 of the final 16 games.

"She played really well and I did quite the opposite," Sharapova said. "It was tough. I just had to stay focused. I got back on track and just remained really focused throughout the rest of the match."

The turning point in the match may have come on that first saved break point. With Lisicki playing near flawless tennis through the first three games, she turned to the drop shot, which was so effective against Marion Bartoli in the quarterfinals.



Russia's Maria Sharapova, left, serves to Germany's Sabine Lisicki during their semifinal match; and Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, right, celebrates a point win during the semifinal match against Victoria Azarenka of Belarus at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 30, 2011.

Associated Press

But this one went into the net, putting the score at deuce and giving the momentum to Sharapova. Even though Sharapova's first serve didn't get much better, her game once the ball was in play did, sending forehands and backhands into the corners and passing her outmatched

opponent.

Lisicki also got frustrated early in the second set as a light drizzle started to rain down on Centre Court. Trailing 0-30 and hoping to get a short reprieve, Lisicki asked chair umpire Louise Engzell to suspend play, but was denied.

Three points later, it was 3-0



to Sharapova and Lisicki's chances of reaching a first Grand Slam final were fading fast.

Sharapova, who has not lost a set at this year's tournament, had 18 unforced errors and only 14 winners. Lisicki did exactly the opposite, with 18 winners and 14 unforced errors.

Besides her Wimbledon victory, Sharapova also won the 2006 U.S. Open and the 2008 Australian Open. But her serve will have to improve if she wants to win a fourth major against Kvitova, who had never won a match on grass before last year's tournament, when she reached the semifinals. "She's a really tricky player because she's a great grass-court player," Sharapova said of Kvitova.

"She's a lefty, she uses her serve really well and she's playing really good tennis." In the first match, Kvitova rode that serve right into the final, hitting three aces in a row in the final game of the first set.

"All match it was around both serves," Kvitova said, "so I'm very happy my serve was good in the third set." Kvitova was playing in only her second major semifinal, and she dictated the play throughout the match. The Czech left-hander had 40 winners and 14 unforced errors, while Azarenka had only nine winners and seven unforced errors.

And it was Azarenka's serve that finished it when the fourth-seeded Belarusian committed her second double-fault of the day on match point.

In the first set, Kvitova twice broke Azarenka's serve and saved the only break point she faced. She finished the set with six aces. But Azarenka responded in the second, finally converting a break point in the second game to take a 2-0 lead. She held the rest of the way and evened the match, but couldn't do much about her opponent's serve. "She started serving, and she really played very well on her service game. Was a little bit of a bad luck, I think," Azarenka said. □



This photo taken May 28, 2011 shows Vancouver Canucks' defenceman Christian Ehrhoff, of Germany, looking on, during a game.

Associated Press

JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, New York (AP)

— The Buffalo Sabres' gamble to acquire and then sign Christian Ehrhoff before the start of free agency has

paid off after the German defenseman agreed to a 10-year, \$40 million contract on Thursday.

The terms of the deal were confirmed by a person familiar with negotiations,

AP Source: Sabres, defenseman Ehrhoff reach a 10-year deal

who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because those details were not released by the Sabres.

The move comes a day before Ehrhoff was eligible for free agency, when he would be free to take offers from around the NHL. And it comes a day after the Sabres made the bold move to give up a fourth-round draft pick to acquire his rights in a trade with the New York Islanders.

It was the second day Ehrhoff had been traded after the Islanders acquired him from Vancouver. Negotiations began early

Thursday after the team first contacted Ehrhoff in Germany.

The Sabres had no immediate comment, except to announce the signing on their Twitter account.

It's the second major move the Sabres have completed in less than a week, and marks another sign of the influence new owner Terry Pegula has since purchasing the team in February. The Pennsylvania billionaire has made it no secret of his intention to transform the Sabres into a bona fide contender after they were bounced in the first round of the playoffs in each of

the past two years.

The Sabres began retooling their roster last weekend, when they acquired defenseman Robyn Regehr and forward Ales Kotalik in a trade with Calgary.

Ehrhoff is a seven-year NHL veteran who made \$3.4 million in the final year of his contract last year. He's a puck-moving blue-liner who fits the Sabres' system. Ehrhoff had 14 goals and 36 assists in 79 games for Vancouver last season. He had two goals and 10 assists in the Canucks' run to the Stanley Cup finals while hampered with a nagging shoulder injury. □

Aronimink feels more like U.S. Open than U.S. Open did

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Australia's Adam Scott sank two long birdie putts and hit a 5-iron within 2 feet for birdie on the 14th hole en route to a 4-under 66 and a share of the first-round lead with Hunter Haas at the AT&T National on Thursday.

Only 28 of the 120 players managed to break par at Aronimink, a course that most players said felt like a U.S. Open — only compared with this year, even tougher.

"It's a great golf course, obviously, but in great shape," Scott said. "But they've set the course up beautifully. The greens are perfect and they've got very generous fairways, but severe rough, which is a nice balance. There are good scores out there, but you have to play well."

The U.S. Open became a talking point because of how hard players had to work for their scores on a course with firm fairways, fast greens and several diabolical hole locations. The average score was about

71.5, and all but four of the holes played over par.

Rain softened the course at Congressional two weeks ago, and while Rory McIlroy turned in a command performance with a record 16-under 268, the 20 scores under par at the end of the week were unusual for a U.S. Open.

"They obviously didn't get the greens where they really would have liked them," said Scott, who missed the cut by one shot at Congressional. "And here, I think they've got the greens probably where the U.S. Open would have liked them on a Thursday."

Scott holed birdie putts of 20 feet and 25 feet early in his round, and finished with a 15-foot par save on the 17th and another 15-footer for birdie on the 18th. His lone bogey came on a three-putt from the fringe on the difficult 10th, and he called it a "stress-free" round. The 30-year-old wasn't even planning to play the AT&T National, but felt his game was in decent shape and that he could use another start. So he lined up Tiger Woods'

caddie, Steve Williams, for another week of work. This time, they figure to stick around a little longer.

Haas ran off four straight birdies on the back nine early in his round and he was the only player to get to 5 under until he got out of position of the tee at No. 7 and made his lone bogey.

When he played his practice round Tuesday, it was raining. Haas was surprised how quickly the course became firm, especially the greens. The reminder came from a scoreboard he saw just before he teed off, showing four players from the morning batch at no better than 67 — Joe Ogilvie, Jhonattan Vegas, Dean Wilson and Kyle Stanley.

"I said, 'Wow, I thought the scores would be a lot lower than that.' And that's just kind of where I put my mindset on the scoring and how to play this golf course," Haas said.

Pat Perez was in the group at 68 that included Vijay Singh, Rickie Fowler, Justin Leonard and Robert Garrigus. Perez didn't play



Adam Scott, of Australia, lines up his putt on the seventh green during the first round of the AT&T National golf tournament at Aronimink Golf Club, Thursday, June 30, 2011, in Newtown Square, Pa.

Associated Press

the U.S. Open and felt as though he did on Thursday. Perhaps most telling is that

Perez had no complaints about his score.

"This place is a month away from playing the U.S. Open," Perez said. "If they brought the fairways in, no joke this course is ready for a U.S. Open doing very little. Because if you hit it in the rough five or six times, you're dead."

And then there was Chris Riley, who opened with a 69. He received some criticism for not trying to qualify for the U.S. Open, and he said even some of his friends at home in San Diego asked him why he didn't qualify.

"I told them I was playing a U.S. Open in two weeks on this course," he said with a grin.

That was the consensus of most players, and details of some of the rounds added more credence. Vegas managed to get around Aronimink without making a bogey. On No. 16, the easiest of the two par 5s, Wilson figured he had squandered his chance until he flopped a shot out of the rough and it firmly struck the pin and dropped for eagle. □

Powell sets season-best

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Asafa Powell ran the fastest time of this world championships season on Thursday, winning the 100 meters in 9.78 seconds at Athletissima. Powell's sprint, powered by a strong start on a cool, blustery night, was 0.01 faster than the now-injured Tyson Gay managed on June 4 at Clermont, Florida.

"It was a fantastic race. I was very confident actually that I was going to run good," said the 28-year-old Jamaican. Powell also was 0.13 quicker than Usain Bolt's season best, set at the Rome Diamond League meet last month when Powell was second. Two months ahead of the worlds in Daegu, South Korea, Powell said he was not thinking of the biggest barrier to his first major individual gold medal. "It's not really a message to anybody — it's just for me," said Powell, who held the world record for three years until Bolt's devastating breakthrough in 2008.

Smiling broadly, Powell said with seeming unintended irony that he's reaching his best form "slowly but surely."

"It will get better and better as the season goes on," said Powell, who has Bolt's 9.58 world record to aim for. "9.6 is in my range."

Powell, aided by a following wind of 1.0 meters per second, required a few more gusts to threaten his career-best 9.72 set here in September 2008.

"The track must love me," said Powell, who pulled Jamaican teammate Michael Frater to a personal best of 9.88 in second. Third-placed Christophe Lemaitre equalled his French record of 9.95.

Powell was the undoubtedly star of the Diamond League event, as 800 world record-holder David Rudisha won, by

9.78 in 100 at Lausanne



Yarelis Barrios, from Cuba competes during the discus event at the Athletissima IAAF Diamond League international athletics meeting in the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Thursday June 30, 2011.

Associated Press

his remarkable standards, in a relatively sedate 1 minute, 44.15 seconds, and Blanka Vlasic sustained another surprise loss in the high jump.

Rudisha raises hopes of lowering his 1:41.01 mark every time he runs, and he was paced through the first lap in under 50 seconds.

The 22-year-old Kenyan, in his second race following a left ankle injury, took over with 300 to go though never extended his 10-meter lead.

Rudisha's lack of sharpness showed in the straightaway and runner-up Marcin Lewandowski, the European champion from Poland, was closing at the line. □



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester delivers in the fifth inning of an interleague baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Thursday, June 30, 2011, in Philadelphia. Boston won 5-2.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jon Lester tossed two-hit ball over seven shutout innings, Jason Varitek homered twice and the Boston Red Sox avoided a three-game sweep with a 5-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies in interleague play on Thursday.

The Phillies got a scare when pitcher Cole Hamels was forced to leave soon after being struck on the glove hand by Adrian Gonzalez's line drive in the fourth. The Phillies said X-rays were negative and Hamels will make his next start.

The three-game series was hyped as a potential World

Series preview. If it is, don't look for much offense in October: Philadelphia outscored the Red Sox 9-6. Dustin Pedroia and Varitek hit back-to-back homers in the eighth to make it 5-0. Ryan Howard hit his 17th homer in the ninth, a two-run shot off Bobby Jenks.

Yankees 5, Brewers 0

At New York, CC Sabathia tied his career high with 13 strikeouts and Mark Teixeira hit his 300th homer to help New York finish off June with a season-best five-game winning streak.

Sabathia (11-4) won for the eighth time in nine starts. In 7 2-3 innings, Sabathia gave

to heighten it. I'm looking forward to it." Florida's downtown ballpark, which has a retractable roof, will be the first to open in the majors since Minnesota's Target Field in 2010. The franchise is to be renamed the Miami Marlins next year.

"It will be quite a show," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "To open up a new stadium that Miami can call their own, a true baseball stadium, a beautiful facility. What else could you ask for? They're going to have to be happy."

Many teams prefer to open on the road in the years they move into a

new ballpark, giving them extra time to get the stadium ready.

The game against St. Louis is a one-game homestand and is likely to be televised by ESPN. Before then, the Marlins are planning an exhibition against the New York Yankees.

Since the Marlins began play in 1993, their home games have been at what now is called Sun Life Stadium, about 16 miles north.

The Marlins say they have had 191 rain delays during games in Miami coming into this year, an average of more than 10 per season — although no in-game delays this year. □

MLB Roundup

Lester, Varitek lead Red Sox over Phillies

up six hits and two walks. Every batter he fanned came on a swinging third strike. When Sabathia left after throwing 118 pitches, he got a roar from the fans. Sabathia faced the Brewers for the first time since helping them reach the 2008 playoffs.

Randy Wolf (6-5) lost for the first time in eight starts since May 17.

Cubs 5, Giants 2, 13 innings

At Chicago, pinch-hitter Geovany Soto's three-run homer capped a four-run 13th inning and sent the Chicago Cubs to a wild victory over San Francisco. Soto's drive finished off an eventful day for the Cubs. Starter Carlos Zambrano left in the second inning because of soreness in his lower back, then Aramis Ramirez hit a tying home run in the ninth off San Francisco closer Brian Wilson. The Giants were leading 2-1 after a solo shot by Pablo Sandoval in the top of the 13th off John Grabow (1-0), but the Cubs struck back in the bottom half against Ramon Ramirez (2-1).

Tigers 5, Mets 2

At Detroit, Justin Verlander slowed down the rampaging Mets, pitching seven solid innings to lead Detroit to victory.

The Mets had scored a team-record 52 runs in their previous four games, including 30 in the first two of this series. Verlander (11-3) prevented a sweep, hold-

ing New York to one run and seven hits.

Verlander finished June with a 6-0 record and a 0.92 ERA, and tied CC Sabathia for the major league lead in wins this season. Verlander has won his last seven starts, allowing two or fewer runs in each.

Mike Pelfrey (4-7) allowed four earned runs in 4 2-3 innings for the Mets, who start a three-game home series against the Yankees on Friday.

Marlins 5, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Chris Volstad allowed one unearned run in seven innings and John Buck hit a two-run double to help Florida cap a miserable June by beating Oakland for its first consecutive wins in more than a month.

Strong starts by Ricky Nolasco and Volstad (4-7) gave the Marlins their first consecutive victories and first series win since sweeping the Giants across the bay in San Francisco on May 24-26. Nothing went right for the Marlins in between their two trips to the Bay Area as they fell from second place to last and had manager Edwin Rodriguez resign during a span that included 14 straight losses in one-run games. That turned around during the three games against the offensively challenged Athletics, who were held to just three runs and one earned run in the entire series. □

NCAA restructures enforcement staff

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— The NCAA says it has restructured its enforcement staff after a six-month review that helped identify sports and issues in need of more attention. NCAA vice president of enforcement Julie Roe Lach announced the moves Thursday. She says it will allow her staff to more easily "surge" in tackling complex cases or throw multiple investigators at a case when appropriate. Roe Lach says the review showed that "the cultivation of sources and development of actionable information" had to be a priority.

Key areas will include sports agents, football, men's and women's basketball and gambling. Among the changes is a promotion for Rachel Newman Baker, from director of agents, gambling and amateurism activities to managing director of development with shared oversight of investigations. □

Soolsma lifts Toronto FC past Whitecaps

TORONTO (AP) — Dutch midfielder Nick Soolsma scored from a penalty in the 54th minute to lift Toronto FC to a 1-0 victory over the Vancouver Whitecaps in Major League Soccer on Wednesday.

Soolsma's had to take the penalty twice after his first attempt — which was successful — was called back because a teammate entered the box too early. Soolsma then knocked the second attempt past Whitecaps keeper Jay Nolly. □

APNewsBreak: Marlins open stadium April 4 vs Cards

NEW YORK (AP) — The Marlins will open their new \$515 million ballpark against the St. Louis Cardinals on April 4, a person familiar with next season's draft schedule told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because Major League Baseball does not plan to announce the schedule, which is still preliminary, until September.

"That's cool. It's the first I heard of it," Florida catcher John Buck said after a 5-4 win at Oakland. "It's fun to have an opening day in your home stadium, period. Then to have the excitement of a new stadium is only going

NBA to lock out players

at 12:01 Friday

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA is locking out its players until a new collective bargaining agreement can be reached, the second American pro sports league to be shut down by labor strife.

The lockout will commence at 12:01 EDT (0401 GMT) Friday, after the expiration of the current deal that owners say has cost them millions of dollars a year.

"We had a great year in terms of the appreciation of our fans for our game. It just wasn't a profitable one for the owners, and it wasn't one that many of the smaller market teams particularly enjoyed or felt included in," Commissioner David Stern said. "The goal here has been to make the league profitable and to have a league where all 30 teams can compete."

The long-expected lockout could put the 2011-12 season in jeopardy and comes as the NFL is trying to end its own work stoppage that began in March.

"The expiring collective bargaining agreement created a broken system that produced huge financial losses for our teams," Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. Despite a three-hour meeting Thursday and a final proposal from the players — which NBA leaders said

would have raised average player salaries to \$7 million in the sixth year of the deal — the sides could not close the enormous gulf between their positions.

"The problem is that there's such a gap in terms of the numbers, where they are and where we are, and we just can't find any way to bridge that gap," union chief Billy Hunter said.

All league business is officially on hold, starting with the free agency period that would have opened Friday. And teams will be prohibited from having any contact with their players. The last lockout reduced the 1998-99 season to just a 50-game schedule, the only time the NBA missed games for a work stoppage. Hunter said it's too early to be concerned about that.

"I hope it doesn't come down to that," he said. "Obviously, the clock is now running with regard to whether or not there will or will be a loss of games, and so I'm hoping that over the next month or so that there will be sort of a softening on their side and maybe we have to soften our position as well."

Owners want to reduce the players' guarantee of 57 percent of basketball revenue and weren't interested in the players' offer to drop it to 54.3 percent — though players said that would have cut their salaries by

\$500 million over five years. They sparred over the league's characterization of its "flex" salary cap proposal — players considered it a hard cap, which they oppose — and any chance of a last-minute deal was quickly lost Thursday when league officials said the union's move was in the wrong direction financially.

"I don't think we're closer; in fact it worries me that we're not closer. We have a huge philosophical divide," Stern said.

The NBA's summer league in Las Vegas already has been canceled, preseason games in Europe were never scheduled, and players might have to decide if they want to risk playing in this summer's Olympic qualifying tournaments without the NBA's help in securing insurance in case of injury.

The players' association seems unlikely, at least for now, to follow the NFL Players' Association model by decertifying and taking the battle into the court system, instead choosing to continue negotiations.



Union chief Billy Hunter speaks to reporters after a meeting with the NBA, Thursday, June 30, 2011 in New York. Hunter says "it's obvious the lockout will happen tonight" after players and owners failed to reach a new collective bargaining agreement, potentially putting the 2011-12 season in jeopardy.

Associated Press

it lost hundreds of millions in every season of this CBA, ratified in 2005. League officials said 22 of the 30 teams would lose money. But owners took a hard-line stance from the start, with their initial proposal in 2010 calling for the institution of a hard salary cap system, along with massive reductions in contract lengths and elimination in contract guarantees. Though the proposal was withdrawn after a contentious meeting with players at the 2010 All-Star weekend, the league never moved from its wish list until recently. □

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daily: 4:45 - 8:00
matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:15 SP NEW PG-13

BAR TEACHER

daily: 4:15 - 6:30 - 8:45

matinee: 12:00 - 2:00

late show: 11:00 R

KUNG FU PANDA 2

daily: 4:45

matinee: 12:00 - 2:30

late show: SP PG

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

daily: 5:30 - 8:15

matinee: 12:30 - 3:00

late show: 11:00 PG

HANGOVER 2

daily: 6:45 - 9:00

matinee: 1:30

late show: 11:30 SP R

CARS 2 IN 3D

daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00

matinee: 1:30

late show: 11:30 SP PG

CARS 2 IN 2D

daily: 12:15 - 3:15

matinee: 1:15 PG

X-MEN FIRST CLASS

daily: 7:00 - 9:30

matinee: 12:00 PG-13

late show: 11:00 PG-13

AT PASEO HERENCIA

TRANSFORMER 3 IN 3D

daily: 5:00 - 8:15
matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:30 SP NEW PG-13

BAD TEACHER

daily: 5:30 - 7:45 - 9:45

matinee: 1:00 - 3:15

late show: 12:00 R

KUNG FU PANDA

daily: 5:00

matinee: 12:30 - 2:45

late show: SP PG

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

daily: 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:15

matinee: 1:15

late show: 11:45 PG

HANGOVER 2

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CARS 2 IN 3D

daily: 6:00 - 8:30

matinee: 1:00 - 3:30

late show: 11:00 SP PG

CARS 2 IN 2D

daily: 4:15

matinee: 1:15

late show: PG

TRANSFORMER 3 IN 2D

daily: 7:30

matinee: 11:00 SP PG-13

late show: 11:00 SP PG-13

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Baby Einstein products questioned as harmful

Karen Augé

© The New York Times

DENVER — Four years, one lawsuit and relentless pestering after a university study slammed their iconic Baby Einstein videos as harmful, a Denver couple has forced the University of Washington to turn over original research documents that they say confirm what they always suspected: The study was deeply flawed and unfairly characterized their products. The university also has paid \$175,000 toward the legal fees of the couple, Bill Clark and Julie Aigner-Clark.

To Bill Clark, the files turned over by the university demonstrate "troubling aspects of how it was conceived, funded and publicized."

But UW spokesman Bob Roseth said the university stands behind the research and its findings, as well as how those findings were portrayed.

Julie Aigner-Clark, a former English teacher, conceived the Baby Einstein videos, which combined classical music, verse, puppets and shiny objects. The couple, who live outside Denver, shot the first video, "Baby Mozart," in their basement. It was released it in 1996.

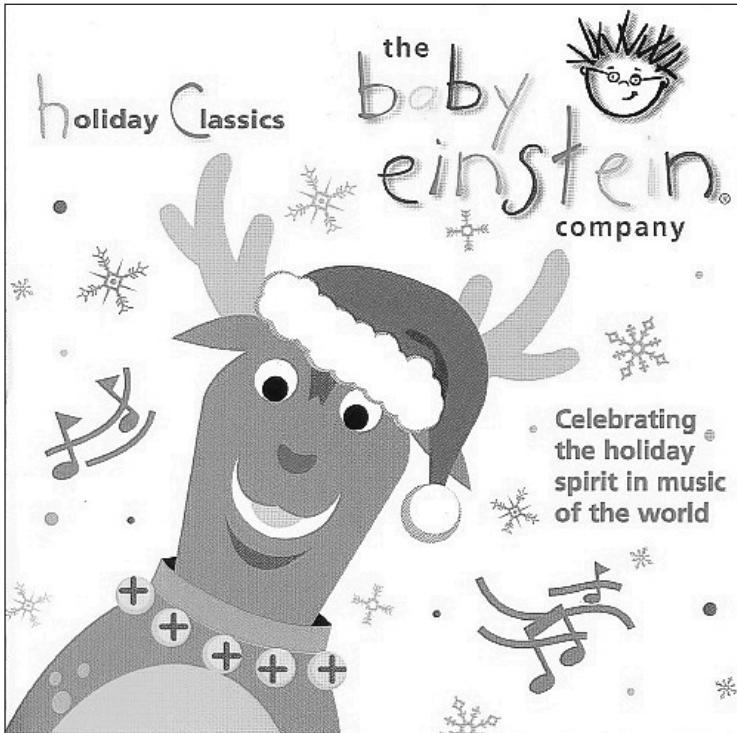
The Clarks have described the videos as "engaging ways to expose babies and their parents to the arts and nature."

But for millions of new parents, they also provided 30 minutes to grab a shower or a sandwich with minimum guilt. By the time the Clarks sold Baby Einstein to Disney in 2001, sales had climbed to more than \$17 million.

Then in 2007, the Journal of Pediatrics published a study by three UW researchers: Frederick Zimmerman, Dimitri Christakis and Andrew Meltzoff.

The study reported that among babies between the ages of 8 and 16 months, every hour spent daily watching videos such as "Brainy Baby" or "Baby Einstein" translated into six to eight fewer words in their vocabularies compared to other children their age.

"This analysis reveals a large negative association



Baby Einstein's merits have been questioned.

between viewing of baby DVDs/videos and vocabulary acquisition in children age 8 to 16 months," the article stated. It added that no other media had any affect, for better or worse. But included in the materials turned over to Clark are exchanges in which the university's Institutional Review Board scolded Zimmerman for changing the

study without notifying anyone, or getting approval. The board at one point directed him to re-survey participating parents, but later backed off that requirement. In his response, Zimmerman said the original study, which was to have involved more subjects and included follow-up over a period of months, proved too costly.

More importantly, from the Clarks' perspective, is correspondence showing the concern of one researcher about how results were analyzed. While children 8 months to 16 months who watched baby videos fell behind in vocabulary, the study also found that in children aged 17 to 24 months, vocabulary increased, and the negative effects evaporated. In an email to Zimmerman, co-author Andrew Meltzoff asked, "What's the notion about how (we're) reconciling the fact that there was an effect on the young kids but it washed out by the time they were 17-24, and we now will be wanting to follow the young kids when they're older?"

Zimmerman responded that he hoped to do a follow up survey with the same parents.

"This has been a great project and it will be a huge payoff in terms of high profile research and promising new research directions," he wrote Meltzoff.

The vocabulary rebound was part of the published report, but was down-

played in press releases distributed by the university and Seattle Children's Hospital, where Christakis is on staff. The researchers, especially Christakis, whose website describes him as "an international expert on children and media," told reporters around the country that not only were the videos not going to produce baby Einsteins, they might actually harm children. Seattle Children's put out a press release that quoted him saying parents should limit childrens' exposure to the videos "as much as possible."

"The evidence is mounting that they are of no value and may in fact be harmful," he said. None of the researchers involved in the study would talk about it now.

Around the country and beyond, headlines screamed that far from cultivating intelligence, Baby Einstein videos would make children dumber. The Los Angeles Times wrote, "Parents hoping to raise baby Einsteins by using infant educational videos instead might be creating baby Homer Simpsons." □

Hospital sale faces months of approvals

KAY LAZAR

© 2011 The Boston Globe

The proposed sale of cash-strapped Quincy Medical Center to Boston's Steward Health Care System will probably take several months to complete, officials said Wednesday, because the deal needs approval from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and state public health regulators.

The hospital, shouldering a \$6 million operating deficit, announced late Tuesday that its board of trustees had reached an agreement with Steward, a holding company created last year to run the six Caritas Christi Health Care hospitals acquired by New York private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management.

The hospital missed a \$380,000 bond payment last month.

John N. Kastanis, the hos-

pital's interim chief executive, said in a statement that the proposed deal is "the culmination of an exhaustive process to find a capital partner who is committed to our mission, our employees and physicians, and the communities we serve."

An e-mail to the hospital's 1,100 employees noted that "pay, benefits, and staff levels will remain as they are today."

If the sale is approved, Quincy would become the latest addition to Steward's rapidly growing hospital system, which includes the six former Caritas facilities, plus Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill and Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer.

Steward also has agreements to acquire Morton Hospital and Medical Center in Taunton and Landmark Medical Center in

Woonsocket, R.I. It also has a letter of intent to buy Saints Medical Center in Lowell.

A Steward spokesman, Chris Murphy, said the company's strategy is to purchase and pump new life into community hospitals.

"So many people in Massachusetts leave their community and travel to downtown Boston for their care, and if you give them nice facilities . and great technologies, everybody wins," Murphy said. "The community hospitals stay strong and medical costs go down because community centers are cheaper than academic teaching hospitals."

Lynn Nicholas, president and chief executive of the Massachusetts Hospital Association, said she would not be surprised to see more hospital mergers because a number of other smaller facilities are struggling.

"Our operating margins are much lower than the rest of the country's," she said.

Also fueling the merger trend, Nicholas said, is the state's push to lower medical costs by dramatically changing the way health care providers are paid, a move that encourages doctors and hospitals to find efficiencies by streamlining operations.

Under state rules, Steward's proposed Quincy deal, which would convert a non-profit hospital to for-profit status, needs approval from the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Attorney General Martha Coakley's office must review the planned transaction before making a recommendation to the state's high court.

The transfer of Quincy's license to Steward also would need the approval of the state Department of Public Health. □

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Facebook campaign forces cottage cheese price cut

ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In the land of milk and honey, feelings run pretty strong when it comes to the price of cottage cheese.

Surrendering to a two-week online campaign, the Israeli dairy companies that control the cheese market announced they were cutting prices by 25 percent. The victory was a rare instance of consumers banding together through social media to force powerful

companies to reduce the price of a product.

Israel's relatively small size and its tech-savvy and media-aware population enabled the protest to spread quickly. More than 105,000 people joined the Facebook group vowing to boycott cottage cheese until prices dropped. The campaign touched a nerve among Israelis concerned about rising prices and eroding salaries.

Spooked by the outrage, the three main Israeli dairy

companies that control the market agreed to lower the price of a half-pound (250 gram) container to 5.90 shekels (\$1.75) after it had risen to close to 8 shekels (\$2.30). "Something happened here, and it changes the rules of the game in the market," Arik Shor, a top executive at the Tnuva dairy cooperative, told Israel Radio. "We are studying it and will draw conclusions — it is an event that goes far beyond cottage." Tnuva was first to bow to



In this June 17, 2011 file photo, a consumer picks up a tub of cottage cheese inside a supermarket in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

the pressure. The two smaller dairies, Strauss and Tara, followed suit.

Cottage cheese was recently voted by Israelis to be their most "Israeli" food, surpassing even the region's own falafel. The dairy product can be found in nearly every refrigerator, and the sudden price increase became a symbol of the rising cost of living in Israel.

The protest has sparked hope it will spread to gasoline, which is now over \$8 a gallon (\$2 a liter), electricity and other food products that also have recently skyrocketed in price.

Protest organizers say they will be moving on to other overpriced products, and consumers have expressed hope the precedent will help them target Israel's pricey real estate and automobile markets.

It also has highlighted the power of social media, with some even comparing it to the revolutions elsewhere in the Middle East. "True, this is not Tahrir Square yet, the cottage cheese rebellion did not require us to take any real action, just to press 'like' and skip the cottage cheese shelf in the supermarket," columnist Ben Caspit wrote in the Maariv

daily, referring to the Egyptian uprising. "This was inaction, not action, and it demanded no real sacrifice." Still, Israeli newspapers on Thursday lauded the success, carrying headlines that declared: "We Won," "Cottage Cheese Victory" and "The Israel Consumer Has Had His Say."

Experts say social networking can be a powerful tool for consumers.

"It illustrates the shifting power dynamic in the world. Social media is enabling ordinary people not only to express themselves but also to organize themselves quickly," said Andrew Nachison, a U.S.-based analyst at We Media, a digital research agency. Ayelet Noff, founder of Blonde 2.0, an Israeli social media agency, said the protest marked a turning point in the way companies deal with crisis management in the digital age. Noff said her company has been working recently with Strauss on a global strategy campaign but did not provide consulting over the cottage cheese crisis.

"This is the first time that consumers said, 'No more! We are not going to deal with this,' and created a change," she said. □

U.S. rules partially against Kodak in Apple dispute

BEN DOBBIN

AP Business Writer

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)

— The U.S. International Trade Commission issued a partial ruling against Eastman Kodak Co. on Thursday in a high-stakes patent-infringement dispute with the makers of the iPhone and BlackBerry phones.

The trade-dispute arbiter in Washington, D.C., said it is essentially upholding an earlier ruling by one of its judges, which threw out the photography pioneer's claims.

The federal agency sent some matters back to the judge for further review by Aug. 30, and Kodak could still prevail in the remaining claims. The 131-year-old Rochester, New York-based company argued that image-preview technology it patented in 2001 was infringed by iPhone



In this Jan. 25, 2011 file photo, a Kodak logo is shown on a slide projector in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

maker Apple Inc. of Cupertino, California, and BlackBerry maker Research in Motion Ltd. of Waterloo, Canada. Chief Executive Antonio Perez had hoped Kodak could draw up to \$1 billion from its deep-pocketed rivals. The commission decided to "affirm in part"

a ruling issued in January by its chief administrative law judge. That decision found no patent violation. However, the commission ruled that Apple and RIM infringed a Kodak patent under the commission's revised definition of "at least three different colors." □



Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, right, smiles at Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, as he speaks during a news conference at the Treasury Department in Washington, Tuesday, June 28, 2011.

Associated Press

S&P says U.S. will get lowest rating if it defaults

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Standard & Poor's executive said the agency will give the U.S. government its lowest credit rating if Congress fails to raise the borrowing limit and the United States defaults on its debt.

The government reached its \$14.3 trillion borrowing limit in May. The U.S. Treasury says it will default on its debt if that limit is not increased by Aug. 2.

Should that happen, the U.S. would lose its AAA rating and receive a D, said John Chambers, managing director of sovereign ratings at S&P, in an interview Thursday with Bloomberg Television.

"If any government doesn't pay its debt on time, the rating of that government goes to D," Chambers said.

A lower credit rating would force the government to pay higher interest rates on Treasury bonds and notes. That would make mortgages and consumer loans more expensive because most loans track the yields on U.S. Treasurys. But such an outcome is unlikely, Chambers said. He expects the White House and Congress to reach an agreement before the deadline.

"We think the government will raise the debt ceiling," he said. "They've raised it 78 times ... since 1960, often at the last moment. We think that will be the case this time."

That's also what Wall Street expects, said Lou Crandall, chief economist at Wrightson ICAP.

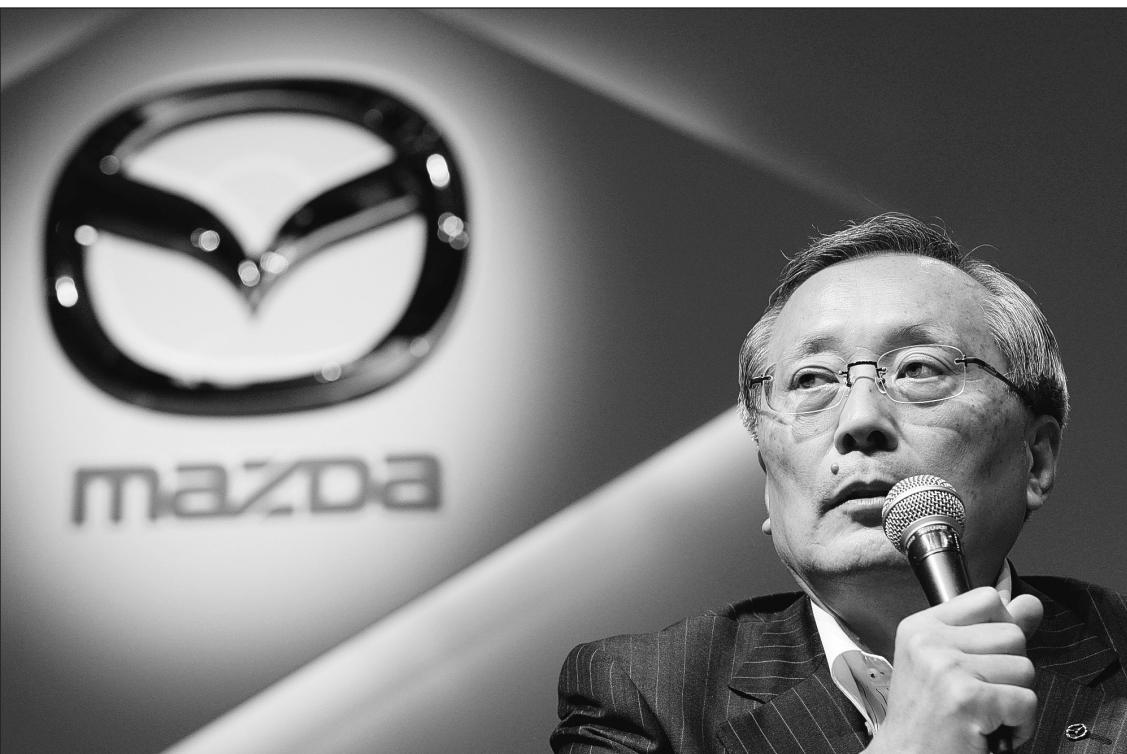
"There's a recognition that a deal won't get done until the last minute," Crandall said. "As long as the deal gets done, it's not going to have a lasting impact on interest rates or the Treasury's ability to borrow."

Lawmakers on Thursday took a step toward that end. The Senate abandoned plans for a July 4 break and instead will return Tuesday to work on a deal.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, announced the scheduling change one day after President Barack Obama prodded lawmakers to act swiftly to raise the borrowing limit. In a challenge to the president, the chamber's top Republican invited him to the Capitol to discuss the impasse with Republican lawmakers.

Republicans are demanding spending cuts equal to any increase in the debt limit. But they will not support any plan to cut the federal deficit that includes tax increases. The White House and congressional Democrats say the plan must include both.

S&P and the other ratings agencies have warned policymakers in recent months that they could cut America's credit rating if the budget deficit isn't brought under control. The deficit is projected to hit \$1.4 trillion this year, the third straight year that it has exceeded \$1 trillion. □



Mazda Motor Corp. President and Chief Executive Takashi Yamanouchi speaks at a press conference of its new Demio, known as Mazda2 overseas, in Tokyo Thursday, June 30, 2011. Yamanouchi believes gasoline engines will still power 80 to 90 percent of the world's autos even in 20 years time, and remains confident it can grow without electric vehicles.

Associated Press

Mazda sees growth with lean gas engines, not EVs

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Mazda's president believes gasoline engines will still power 80 to 90 percent of the world's autos even in 20 years time, and remains confident the carmaker can grow without electric vehicles.

The comments Thursday from Mazda Motor Corp. President Takashi Yamanouchi contrast with the strategy at Japanese rival Nissan Motor Co., which is banking heavily on its Leaf electric car, one of the first mass-produced EVs on the market.

Yamanouchi said Mazda's efficient gas engine called "Skyactiv" will be a pillar of its growth strategy as the Hiroshima-based manufacturer seeks to boost sales in emerging markets, where electric vehicles and hybrids aren't expected to be as popular as in developed nations.

"Skyactiv will be one of the drivers of our growth," Yamanouchi told reporters at a Tokyo hotel, where Mazda showed a new subcompact.

Mazda currently has no hybrid vehicle in its lineup. It plans to start selling a hybrid by 2013.

Hybrids still require gas engines, and Yamanouchi said they can be counted as part of what will be the 80 or 90 percent of cars that aren't electric.

Nissan has sold about 8,000 of its Leaf electric vehicles around the world, more than half in Japan, since its gradual global rollout started in December.

That's a tiny fraction of the world auto market. But Yokohama-based Nissan is targeting production of 250,000 electric vehicles a year globally by 2015, stressing that concerns about global warming and pollution are growing.

Mazda began selling the Demio, known as Mazda2 overseas, in Japan on Thursday, offering a version packed with Skyactiv technology. It is targeting 6,000 overall Demio sales a month.

The automaker said it was not planning to sell the Skyactiv Demio overseas, but was planning the green-technology for bigger models.

The Skyactiv Demio gets as much as 30 kilometers a liter (71 miles per gallon), according to Mazda. Other features, such as "idling stop," in which the

engine turns off automatically while at a traffic light and other temporary stops, helps boost mileage.

Mazda is building engine and vehicle assembly plants in Mexico for small cars, such as Mazda2 and Mazda3, for markets in Central America and South America.

It has said it will stop building the midsize Mazda6 sedan at its 50-50 joint venture with Ford Motor Co. in Flat Rock, Michigan, but did not specify exactly when that would be, leaving the fate of the plant unclear. Mazda's output there has been at about 40,000 vehicles a year.

Mazda, which has lost money for the last three fiscal years, is struggling to assert its brand without counting on its longtime partnership with Ford.

No replacement partnership has been announced, and Mazda has repeatedly said Ford remains a key partner.

Dearborn-based Ford bought 25 percent of the Japanese carmaker in 1979, raising it to 33.4 percent in 1996. But Ford began cutting ties in 2008, and last year lowered its ownership to 3.5 percent. □

China repeals controversial trade rule

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China has repealed a policy favoring Chinese producers in government purchases of computers and other technology that triggered complaints by foreign companies and governments that it violated free trade.

The Finance Ministry announcement was the second time in a month that Beijing repealed a technology policy after complaints by its trading partners. The U.S. government announced June 7 that China was withdrawing measures that American officials said improperly subsidized Chinese wind turbine makers. A brief ministry statement late Wednesday said it would no longer enforce procurement rules that are part of a decade-old "indigenous innovation" campaign to spur domestic technology development. They required government agencies to favor Chinese makers in six areas including computers, clean power and communications. "This repeal represents a forward step toward leveling the playing field in the government procurement market in China," said Davide Cucino, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, in a written response to questions. □

Oil drops 11 percent in second quarter

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After rising to become an obstacle to economic growth, oil prices went backward in the second quarter.

The benchmark price in the U.S. dropped nearly 16 percent in May and June, and closed the quarter with an 11 percent decline. Having settled at \$95.42 per barrel Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, oil is back where it was in late February. And at \$3.54 per gallon (3.8 liters), the national average for gas is almost 7 cents lower than when the quarter started.

But there were worried economists and frustrated drivers along the way. Oil rose 7 percent in April and peaked near \$115 per barrel on May 2. Gas hit \$3.98 per gallon days later.

High fuel prices were blamed for everything from lagging consumer confidence to lower retail sales. Consumers are still feeling the effects, but "the bubble has popped," analyst and trader Stephen Schork said. "(Oil prices) were going like gangbusters in April. Then we gave it all back really fast."

The turnaround came as consumers balked at soaring gasoline prices and some of the world's major oil importers released emergency supplies. There were also echoes of last year's second quarter:



Fuel attendant Derek Locke of Lynn, Mass., steps out of a sports fishing boat after pumping about 150 gallons on board as Ryan Chasse, of Lynn, opens his wallet to pay at the Seaport Landing Marina in Lynn, Mass., Wednesday, June 29, 2011.

Associated Press

A financial crisis in Europe and questions about the global economic recovery pulled prices lower.

Still, the 28-nation International Energy Agency, which includes the U.S., remained worried enough about oil's impact on the global recovery that it pledged last week to release 60 million barrels of crude and refined products onto the market in an effort to prevent another price spike. The second-quarter decline surprised many investors and there's little consensus on where prices go from here. Most analysts do expect prices to be especially volatile in the sec-

ond half of the year. There were 37 days in the first six months where prices either rose or fell by 2 percent or more. The U.S. Department of Energy expects oil to rise from an average of about \$98.55 in the first half to \$101.91 per barrel by the end of the year. Some analysts, however, expect prices to be lower than that, maybe falling to \$80 per barrel by New Year's Eve. Oil will move depending on the answers to four major questions, experts say:

— How much oil will China consume? China's oil appetite is expected to drive world demand for years.

But there are signs of a pull

back. Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill, said earlier in June that China's oil consumption grew 8 percent in May. That was the second month of single-digit growth after consumption had expanded 10 percent or more in each of the previous six months. If China's consumption lags estimates, expect oil prices to tumble.

— Will non-OPEC countries release more oil? Oil plunged last week after the IEA announced the release of oil. The group said it should more than make up for the loss of Libya's 1.5 million barrels of daily exports. □

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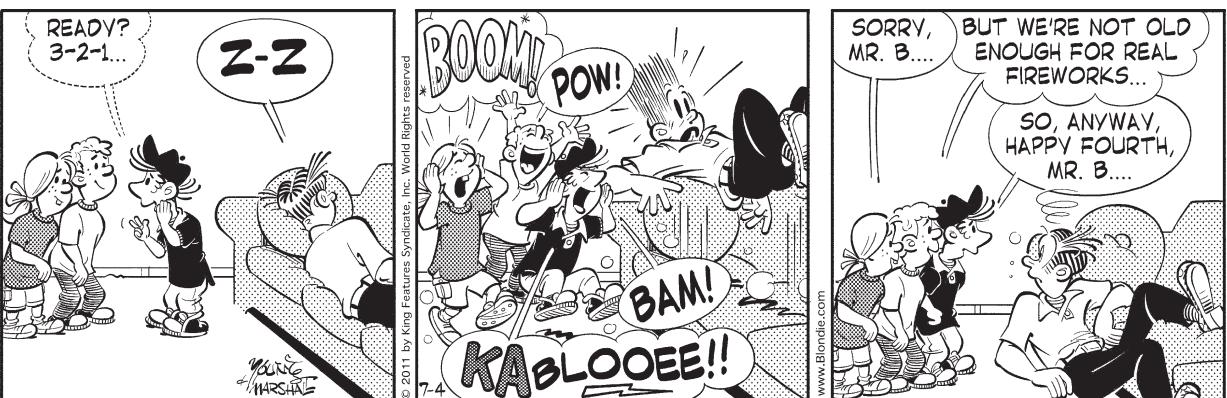
Mutts

DON'T WORRY,
EARL-FIRE-
WORKS ARE
JUST PRETTY
WITTLE
LIGHTS
THAT Go...

6 Chix



Blondie



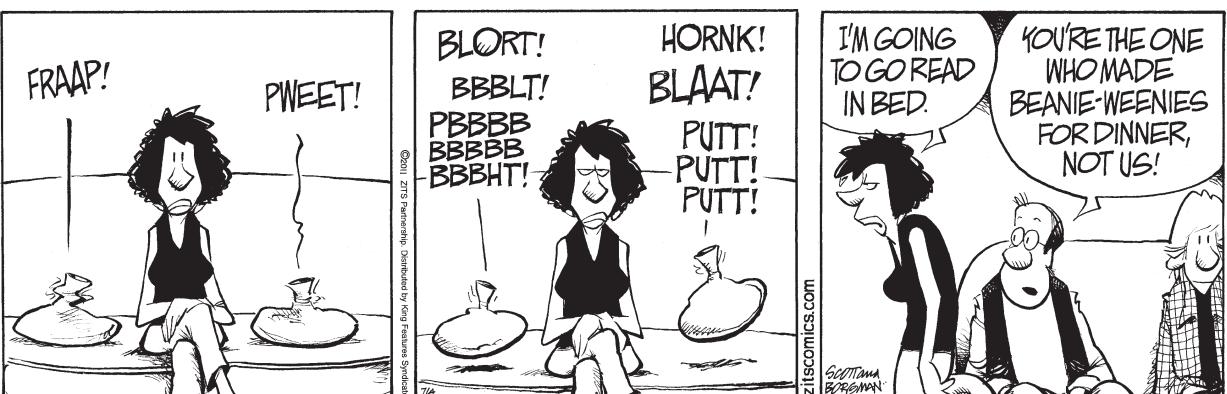
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2	4		1	5		7	6
8	4		5	1			
3	6		4			1	
8	9	4					
7	9	5	6				
2	5	8				7	
1	5						
7	3		5	2			

Difficulty Level ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	2	5	9	7	3	6	8	1
6	9	1	5	4	8	2	7	3
8	3	7	6	1	2	4	9	5
9	5	2	4	3	6	7	1	8
3	6	4	1	8	7	9	5	2
1	7	8	2	9	5	3	4	6
2	4	9	3	5	1	8	6	7
5	8	6	7	2	4	1	3	9
7	1	3	8	6	9	5	2	4

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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7/4/11

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	O	M	S	C	A	R	F	E	R	G	O
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N	A	I	L	S	N	K	I	S	K	I	S	I
C	L	O	S	E	D	S	K	E	T	U	U	U
O	A	T	H	S	C	H	A	I	N	H	I	M
A	Y	Y	S	L	U	M	P	N	O	V	A	O
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D	R	O	N	E	D	P	E	D	O	P	E	O
R	O	D	L	E	G	A	L	E	G	A	L	E
A	M	I	G	O	S	E	A	S	A	L	E	E
V	O	C	A	T	O	N	A	L	E	E	I	M
I	R	O	N	T	R	O	V	E	R	E	M	E
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- 3 Mailed
4 Went into
5 Tasteless
6 Rowers' needs
7 Era
8 Paid a landlord
9 Remove liquid from
10 Insulated flask
11 Reign
12 Poor box donations
13 Mountain road
14 Van Winkle
15 Correct text
16 Run-of-the-__; ordinary
17 Group formed to help a sheriff
18 Salaries
19 Marry
20 Clothing
21 Robbers
22 Eurasian deer
23 Buddy
24 Save from danger
25 Burro
26 Desiring knowledge
27 Cushion
28 Thoroughfares
29 Eurasian deer
30 Beer
31 Shade trees
32 New doctors
33 Wild female cat
34 Get __ of; throw away
35 Snake's poison
36 Move slowly
37 Unleash one's frustration
38 Shade trees
39 New doctors
40 Wild female cat
41 Eurasian deer
42 Get __ of; throw away
43 Beer
44 Shade trees
45 Unleash one's frustration
46 Snake's poison
47 Group formed to help a sheriff
48 Salaries
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50 Clothing
51 Robbers
52 Eurasian deer
53 Burro
54 Desiring knowledge
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57 Eurasian deer
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Today In History

Today is Friday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2011. There are 183 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1847 - The U.S. Post Office issues the first adhesive-backed stamps.

1867 - The provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario officially become the Dominion of Canada. As a dominion, Canada still owed its allegiance to the British crown and didn't receive total independence until 1982.

1910 - South Africa becomes a dominion of British Empire, after the British defeat the Dutch settlers in the Boer War (1899-1902). The resulting Union of South Africa operated under apartheid until the 1990s when black majority rule was established.

1916 - The British army attacks German lines at the start the First Battle of the Somme during World War I, sustaining their heaviest casualties ever in one day: 20,000 dead.

1921 - Revolutionaries Mao Zedong and Chen Duxiu, who turned to Marxism after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution victory in Russia, secretly meet in Shanghai and establish the Communist Party of China.

1926 - British and Portuguese reach agreement on boundary between what is now Angola and Namibia.

1961 - Algerians vote overwhelmingly for independence from France.

1962 - Rwanda and Burundi gain their independence from Belgium.

1963 - The U.S. Post Office inaugurates the postal zip-code system.

1966 - France withdraws all its armed forces from integrated military command of NATO, but remains a member of the organization.

2004 - Saddam Hussein appears in Iraqi court for the first time, scoffing at charges of war crimes and genocide and declaring himself still the president of Iraq.

2005 - A fire paralyzes a water plant near Baghdad,

leaving millions of the capital's weary residents with dry taps a day after the mayor threatened to quit because of mounting infrastructure problems.

2007 - Hong Kong marks a decade of Chinese rule with a colorful parade and a mass street protest to call for progress on democratic reform.

2008 - France's army chief resigns following a weekend military show in which 16 people were shot and wounded when real bullets were used instead of blanks.

2009 - Iran's embattled opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi tells supporters "it's not yet too late" to push for their rights, and he joins a reformist ex-president in condemning the regime for a post-election crackdown both said was tantamount to a coup.

2010 — Two suicide bombers strike a popular Muslim shrine in Pakistan's second largest city, killing 35 people and wounding 175 others in the second major attack in Lahore in a month, the city's top official said.

Today's Birthdays:

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, German philosopher and

mathematician (1646-1716); George Sand (Armandine Dudevant), French author (1804-1876); Charles Laughton, British-born actor (1899-1965); James Cagney, U.S. actor (1904-1986); Lady Diana Spencer, Prin-



Today is Pamela Anderson's birthday

cess of Wales (1961-1997); Sydney Pollack, U.S. director (1934-2008); Olivia de Havilland, British actress (1916--); Sir Seretse Khama, first president of Botswana (1921-1980); Twyla Tharp, U.S. dancer/choreographer (1941--); Deborah Harry, U.S. singer (1945--); Liv Tyler, U.S. actress (1977--); Carl Lewis, U.S. Olympic athlete (1961--); Pamela Anderson, U.S. actress (1967--). □

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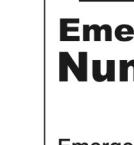


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Fire Dept. 115
Fire Dept. II 582-1108
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Police	582-4000

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Valero Security	584-1720

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Setar	582-5151
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A more mellow Beyoncé still impresses

NEKESA MOODY

AP Music Writer

Beyoncé, "4," (Columbia) "Run the World (Girls)," the first single from Beyoncé's fourth solo album, "4," has all the hallmarks of a signature No. 1 Beyoncé smash — a bombastic, larger-than-life sound, a call-and-response hook, a heavy dose of girl power and a fierce drumbeat.

Surprisingly, though, it landed with a thud on radio, and the buzz around "4" hasn't been encouraging — there's even talk that the multihyphenate diva could find herself dealing with her very first flop.

It remains to be seen how "4" will do on the charts, but if fans pay attention to the music, then Beyoncé should have no worries. If anything, "Run the World (Girls)" is the anomaly of the disc, which has few tracks geared for the clubs. Instead, Beyoncé — just a few months shy of 30 — offers a bewitching blend of ballads and midtempo grooves that show a maturation in the singer's sound.



In this photo, Beyoncé performs with show contestants at the "American Idol" finale in Los Angeles. Beyoncé's new album "Beyoncé 4" has a mellow groove, but still has audiences listening.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)



England footballer Peter Crouch and model Abbey Clancy pose together in the grounds of Stapleford Park in Leicester, England, Thursday June 30, 2011, following their wedding.

(AP Photo/Rui Viera-pa)

She strips away the much of the musical pyrotechnics that have anchored some of her biggest solo jams for an album more heavy on ballads, and danceable hits that charm, instead of strong-arm, their way into your psyche.

"Love on Top," a buoyant, old school jam that recalls the days when Billy Ocean and curl activator were in, stands among the album's best songs, mixing the sound of horns, synthesizer and Beyoncé's beguiling voice to dreamy effect. There's more 1980s inspiration on the sexy laid-back tune "Party," co-produced by Kanye West, thanks to a Slick Rick sample and a retro bass line that slows down the pace, but not the fun. Though the reclusive Andre 3000 offers a verse on the track, Beyoncé remains the star on the song, seducing listeners with her powerful pipes.

The Boyz II Men-sampled "Countdown" and the marching band feel of "End of Time" will satisfy those looking for the typical Beyoncé frenetic bounce. But it's a love-struck Beyoncé, not the dancing diva, who is featured on the bulk of the album, which finds the singer passionately emoting about the love for her man, either from a position of confidence or fear.

"I'm addicted to the rush," acknowledges Beyoncé on the semifatalistic "I'd Rather Die Young," while on "Start Over," she offers to reset a relationship rather than lose it. But the most dramatic ballad is the best — "1+1," featuring a blistering Beyoncé on a back-to-basics R&B groove that smolders despite its simplicity.

The same applies for "4," an album that has fewer fireworks, but still leaves you starry-eyed.

CHECK OUT THIS TRACK: It wouldn't be a Beyoncé album without the obligatory "you go girl" anthem, and she duly supplies it in the rousing "Best Thing I Never Had," which shows again why every man should appreciate what he has — especially if he has Beyoncé. □



Glenn Beck, who burned bright and fast at Fox News Channel, does his final show on the network Thursday before going into business for himself.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

Glenn Beck: Bye Fox TV

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Conservative TV commentator Glenn Beck said goodbye to Fox News Channel on Thursday, airing his final show before going into business for himself. He told his fans that he was determined "to his last breath" to fix the United States.

The colorful Beck will begin streaming a daily two-hour show for paying customers on his own Internet network, GBTV, in September. Beck's conservative populism resonated almost immediately with viewers on the Rupert Murdoch-owned Fox network when he started the day before Barack Obama's inauguration as president in January 2009, drawing audiences unseen before in a late afternoon time slot on cable news.

At his peak in January 2010, Beck's show averaged 2.9 million viewers each day. He'd warn darkly of things going wrong in the world, sometimes spinning complex theories on his blackboard. Occasionally, he'd be moved to tears.

His popularity faded, although Beck still led his time slot. He was averaging 1.86 million viewers a day so far this year, down 23 percent from the same period in 2010, the Nielsen Co. said. An advertising boycott that began after Beck said Obama had a "deep-seated hatred for white people" led to more than 400 advertisers telling Fox they didn't want their commercials seen on his show. □

'Terri': Another teenage misfit trying to like himself

A.O. SCOTT

© 2011 New York Times

In outline, the story told in "Terri" could not be more familiar: A misfit high school student, isolated and misunderstood, finds companionship with other oddballs, as well as a measure of self-acceptance. The same description could apply to "Submarine" and "The Art of Getting By," restricting ourselves only to films currently playing in theaters. All three movies are sincere and thoughtful – necessary but not sufficient conditions for our interest and admiration. In real life we can hope that every teenager can do his or her best and feel good about the results, but the standards of art are not so lenient. And what lifts "Terri" above its peers is not the plight of its protagonist or the film's sympathy for him, but rather the care and craft that the director,



Jacob Wysocki in "Terri" directed by Azazel Jacobs in an undated handout photo. The film follows the title character, a misfit high school student, as he finds companionship in other outcasts. (Alexandra Weiss/ATO Pictures via The New York Times)

Azazel Jacobs has brought to fairly conventional material. Jacobs' previous film, "Momma's Man," was also the story of a young man in distress: a fellow in his 20s unable to flee a parental nest occupied, in a curious and crucial twist, by the filmmaker's own parents. With "Terri," Jacobs, work-

ing from a script by Patrick Dewitt, moves further from home, to a wooded, suburban stretch of Southern California where the title character (Jacob Wysocki) lives with his ailing, quietly unstable Uncle James (Creed Bratton).

Terri, overweight and slow-moving, goes to school in

his pajamas and endures the teasing of his classmates with sad resignation. He warily consents to be taken under the wing of Assistant Principal Fitzgerald (John C. Reilly) and drifts into uneasy friendship with another outcast, Chad (Bridger Zadina), a skinny, angry kid with the nervous habit of pulling out his own hair. Retrospectively, you will perceive the usual beats of a coming-of-age tale, as Terri is tested in various ways and learns important lessons about loyalty, bravery and himself. He overcomes his initial suspicions of Mr. Fitzgerald, whose bluff, bureaucratic manner disguises a sensitive and generous soul. Terri also undergoes a tentative sexual awakening with Heather (Olivia Crocicchia), a girl he rescues from expulsion in a lovely and plausible act of chivalry.

What makes "Terri" special, though, is that you don't feel pushed around by the narrative. Jacobs paces his scenes with a relaxed, almost dreamy rhythm and allows odd, interesting details to catch his ear and eye. A pushier, less confident filmmaker would have underlined the quirkiness of the characters, condescending to them with mockery, sentimentality or a coy blend of the two. But everyone in "Terri" is allowed to be opaque and unpredictable, the way real people are. The members of the cast, Wysocki in particular, are awkward in just the right way. We don't learn much about Terri's background or the nature of his uncle's ailments, and we are never sure, from moment to moment, how anyone will behave. That is most likely because they are not sure either. □

An age-old device with a dramatic payoff

FRANZ LIDZ

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The Parisian tycoon Stanislas Graff is one of France's more loathsome lotharios. Flaunting a cocksure recklessness worthy of an International Monetary Fund director, he leads a double life as a secret womanizer who has gambled his way into debt.

One morning as Graff prepares to accompany the French president on a trip to China, he is kidnapped and driven to a hideout. His captors demand a ransom of 50 million euros – and, to show they mean business, chop off Graff's finger and include it with his handwritten plea.

Played with a perpetual glower by Yvan Attal, Graff is the dodgy protagonist of Lucas Belvaux's "Rapt," a tense French-Belgian hostage drama that opens at Film Forum in New York on Wednesday. The film, inspired by the 1978 abduction of the industrialist Baron Edouard-Jean Empain, is the latest assignation in the movie industry's long, dark romance with ransom notes.



An undated handout photo Yvan Attal surrounded by his kidnappers in a scene from Lucas Belvaux's hostage drama, "Rapt." The French-Belgian film, which opens at Film Forum on July 6, is the latest assignation in the film industry's long, dark romance with ransom notes.

(Lorber Films via The New York Times)

"The extortion-for-profit note is one of the oldest conventions in film," said William Finkelstein, whose script credits range from "L.A. Law" to Werner Herzog's "Bad Lieutenant: Port

of Call New Orleans." This year is the centennial of "The Ransom of Red Chief," a comic short that may well have started it all. Adapted from an O. Henry tale, the plot involves two con men

who snatch an unruly boy. Clobbered by the author's trademark irony, the kidnappers wind up paying their victim's father to take the brat off their hands. The yarn has been re-

worked into numerous feature films and television movies, including a section of the anthology "Full House" (1952), which has a ransom note, and "Ruthless People" (1986), which doesn't.

Ransom notes were minor facets in glittering screen gems like Alfred Hitchcock's original "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (1934), Don Siegel's "Dirty Harry" (1971), Brian De Palma's "Obsession" (1976) and the Coen brothers' "Big Lebowski" (1998), in which, for emphasis, the ransoms send the hostage's severed toe in an envelope. (The note was faxed.) "Acts of barbarity make the ransom letter more credible and horrifying," Belvaux said. "In effect the kidnappers are saying, 'Look at what we've done so far and are capable of doing.'"

Curiously, neither "Ransom!" – a 1956 thriller starring Glenn Ford as a vacuum cleaner company CEO who's sucked into a kidnapping scheme, or the 1996 remake with Mel Gibson – rely on a classic ransom note. □

Trust but e-verify on immigration



ROSS DOUTHAT

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The Arizona immigration law was controversial from the beginning. Critics said it was ripe for abuse, implicitly discriminatory and probably unconstitutional as well. Business groups and liberal activists joined forces to oppose it. But now that it's been implemented, it might just be a model for nationwide reform. No, I'm not talking about the Arizona law that empowers local police to check the immigration status of anyone they detain, which generated a wave of boycotts and a surfeit of Gestapo analogies last spring. I mean the 2007 Arizona law requiring businesses to confirm their employees' legal status with the federal E-Verify database, which was upheld last week in a 5-3 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The E-Verify law was never as polarizing as last year's police-powers legislation, but it still attracted plenty of opposition. Arizona business interests called it unfair and draconian. (An employer's business license is suspended for the first offense and revoked for the second.) Civil liberties groups argued that the E-Verify database's error rate is unacceptably high, and that the law creates a presumptive bias against hiring Hispanics. If these arguments sound familiar, it's because similar critiques are always leveled against any attempt to actually enforce America's immigration laws. From the border to the workplace, immigration enforcement is invariably depicted as terribly harsh, hopelessly expensive and probably racist into the bargain. Not to mention counterproductive: Advocates for "comprehensive" reform, the holy grail of

liberal Democrats and moderate Republicans alike, have long implied that it's essentially impossible to prevent illegal immigrants from finding their way to eager employers. Instead, they argue, we have no choice but to ratify the status quo – i.e., mass low-skilled immigration from Mexico and Central America – by creating a vast new guest-worker program and offering citizenship to illegal immigrants already here. So far, though, Arizona's E-Verify law seems to be providing a strong counterpoint to this counsel of despair. According to a recent study from the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, the legislation reduced Arizona's population of working-age illegal immigrants by about 17 percent, or roughly 92,000 people, in just a single year. (This effect was entirely distinct from the Great Recession's broader impact on immigration, the study argues.) And the swift attrition was mainly achieved through voluntary compliance: The number of employers who prosecuted under the law can be counted on one hand. These results suggest that maybe – just maybe – America's immigration rate isn't determined by forces beyond any lawmaker's control. Maybe public policy can make a difference after all. Maybe we could have an immigration system that looked as if it were designed on purpose, not embraced in a fit of absence of mind. At least in the short term, there's no good reason for such a system to include any kind of amnesty. This was a dubious idea even during the last decade's economic boom. It would be folly (and a political nonstarter) in this economic climate, which has left Americans without high school diplomas (who tend to lose out from low-skilled immigration) facing a 15 percent unemployment rate. But eschewing amnesty doesn't require shutting down immigration. Quite the opposite: With increased

enforcement (to date, only a few states have Arizona-style E-Verify laws on the books, though the Obama White House seems to be stepping up prosecutions of employers), the United States could welcome as many immigrants as we do today. But instead of shrugging as low-skilled workers jump the border to compete with the struggling American working class, our immigration policy should focus on recruiting well-educated migrants, opening the door to greater legal immigration from Asia, Africa and Europe.

As it happens, a system along

these lines exists right now – in Canada. A recent report from the Manhattan Institute found that the United States still assimilates immigrants more successfully than many Western European countries. But culturally and economically, we lag well behind our northern neighbor when it comes to integrating new arrivals.

In part, this is because Canada fast-tracks immigrants to citizenship. But it's also because Canada does more to recruit highly educated emigres than the United States – and the Dominion's more international, geographically diverse im-

migrant population probably discourages balkanization and self-segregation. (No single country or region dominates Canada's immigration numbers to the extent that Mexico and the rest of Latin America dominate immigration to the United States.) The result is a system that welcomes newcomers but serves the national interest as well. America isn't close to that sweet spot at the moment, but it's what we should be aiming for. By learning from Arizona, and becoming more like Canada, we might finally have an immigration policy worthy of the USA. □



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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The world capital for crimes against humanity this month probably isn't in Libya or Syria. Instead, it's arguably the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, where we're getting accounts of what appears to be a particularly vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing, murder and rape. In its effort to preclude witnesses, the Sudanese government has barred humanitarian access to the area and threatened to shoot down U.N. helicopters. Sudanese troops even detained four U.N. peacekeepers and subjected them to "a mock firing squad," the United Nations said.

An internal U.N. report says that Sudanese authorities are putting on uniforms of the Sudanese Red Crescent – a local version of the Red Cross – to order displaced people to move away from the U.N. compound. They were then herded into a stadium in the town of Kadugli, where their fate is uncertain. Western aid workers have been forced to flee, and there are credible reports of government troops and government-backed Arab militias systematically hunting down members of the black-skinned Nuba ethnic group and killing them. "Door-to-door executions of completely innocent and defenseless civilians, often by throat-cutting, by special internal security forces," a Westerner with long experience in Sudan recounted in a terse

Yet again in Sudan

email. The writer, who was on the scene but has now left, does not want to be named for fear of losing access.

The Rt. Rev. Andudu Elnail, an Episcopal bishop for the Nuba Mountains area, told me that the Sudanese government has targeted many Nuban Christians. Armed forces burned down his cathedral, said Andudu, who is temporarily in the United States but remains in touch daily with people in the area.

"They're killing educated people, especially black people, and they don't like the church," he said. Women are also being routinely raped, Andudu said, estimating that the death toll is "more than a few thousand" across the Sudanese state of South Kordofan. This isn't religious warfare, for many Nubans are Muslim and have also been targeted (including a mosque bombed the other day).

The Sudanese military has been dropping bombs on markets and village wells. At least 73,000 people have fled their homes, the United Nations says. A network of brave people on the ground, virtually all locals, have been secretly taking photos and transmitting them to human rights organizations in the West like the Enough Project. My hard drive overflows with photos of children bleeding from shrapnel.

Samuel Totten, a genocide scholar at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, visited the Nuba Mountains a year ago to gather historical accounts of the mass killings of Nuba by the Sudanese government in the 1990s. Now, he says, it is all beginning to happen again.

"As I watch the international community dither as the people of the Nuba Mountains are being killed, impunity reigns," said Totten. The Sudanese government signed a framework agreement Tuesday

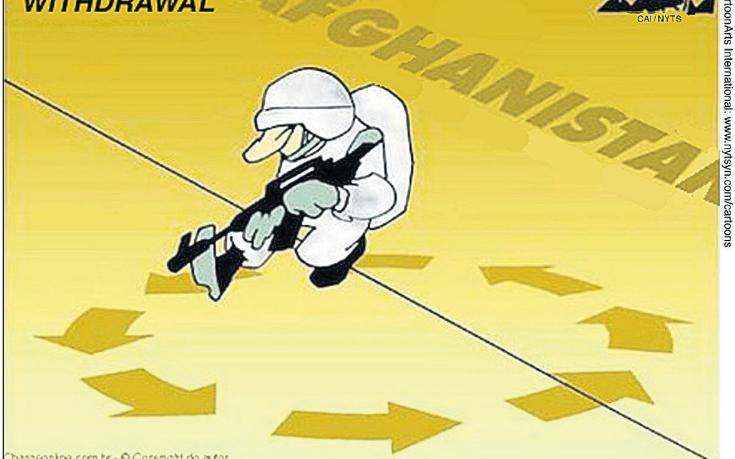
that could be a step to end the violence in South Kordofan, but there has been no deal on cessation of hostilities. Sudan has a long record of agreements reached and then breached (by the South as well as the North).

Sudan is preparing for a split July 9, when South Sudan emerges as an independent nation after decades of on-and-off war between North and South. The Nuba Mountains will remain in the North when the South secedes, but many Nuba sided with the South during the war and still serve in a rebel military force dug into the mountains.

Most of the violence in the Nuba Mountains has been by northern Arabs against the Nuba, but there are also reports of rebel soldiers attacking Arab civilians. There is a risk that violence will spread to the neighboring state of Blue Nile and ultimately trigger a full-blown North-South war, although both sides want to avoid that. It's critical that the United Nations retain its presence. Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, already indicted for genocide in Darfur, is visiting China, and Chinese leaders need to insist that he stop the killing of civilians and allow the United Nations to function. The appeals from Nubans today feel like an anguished echo of those from Darfur eight years ago.

Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization that has long worked in the Nuba Mountains, said it received a message from a Nuban pastor: "With grief today, I want to inform you that the new church is burned down. We have lost everything. The house where my staff lives was looted, and the offices were burned. Many people fled from town, but some stayed. There is no food or water now." □

WITHDRAWAL



Cartoon by David Suter



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